

Company Registration Number: 10226712 (England & Wales)

THE CREATIVE LEARNING PARTNERSHIP TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

THE CREATIVE LEARNING PARTNERSHIP TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

CONTENTS

	Page
Reference and administrative details	1 - 2
Trustees' report	3 - 24
Governance statement	25 - 30
Statement of regularity, propriety and compliance	31
Statement of trustees' responsibilities	32
Independent auditor's report on the financial statements	33 - 36
Independent reporting accountant's report on regularity	37 - 38
Statement of financial activities incorporating income and expenditure account	39 - 40
Balance sheet	41
Statement of cash flows	42
Notes to the financial statements	43 - 76

THE CREATIVE LEARNING PARTNERSHIP TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Members	A Jones S Cartlidge R Huntley A Naik C Seville
Trustees	S Compton, Chief Executive and Accounting Officer R Owen (resigned 11 December 2024) L Beck (resigned 24 September 2024) H Morrison V Dalgarno P Ford, Chair B Kellett (resigned 19 October 2024) D Swift M Getty L Sanzeri (appointed 3 March 2025) E Cerioni (appointed 11 December 2024) C Gordon-Creed (appointed 11 December 2024) R Skae (appointed 24 January 2025) E Kelly-Brough J Pearce (appointed 7 March 2025)
Company registered number	10226712
Company name	The Creative Learning Partnership Trust
Principal and registered office	Beaconfields Primary School Ramson Avenue Stafford Staffordshire ST16 1ZY
Senior management team	S Compton, Chief Executive Officer / Account Officer J Keay, Deputy Chief Executive Officer L Austen, Director of Operations K Hillman, Director of Finance (Chief Finance Officer) J Francis, Professional Governance and Executive Support Officer

THE CREATIVE LEARNING PARTNERSHIP TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

Independent auditor	Crowe U.K. LLP Black Country House Rounds Green Road Oldbury West Midlands B69 2DG
Bankers	Lloyds Bank 46-48 High Street Newcastle under Lyme Staffordshire ST5 1QY
Solicitors	Browne Jacobson Mowbray House Castle Meadow Road Nottingham NG2 1BJ

THE CREATIVE LEARNING PARTNERSHIP TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

TRUSTEES' REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025



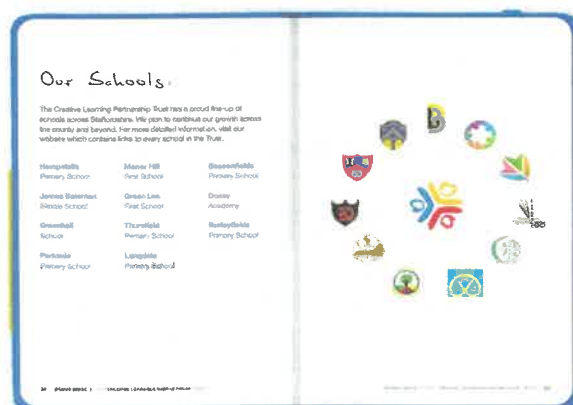
The Trustees of the Creative Learning Partnership Trust present their annual report together with the financial statements and auditor's report of the Charitable Company for the period 1st September 2024 to 31st August 2025. The annual report serves the purposes of both a Trustees' report, and a Directors' report under Company law.

The Creative Learning Partnership Trust operates eleven schools. These consist of a special school, a middle school, two first schools and seven primary schools. The schools are based in Staffordshire covering the areas of Stafford, Stone, Milwich, Newcastle Under Lyme, Harsiseahead and Knypersley. The Trust's current pupil numbers are 2,713 children with 2,267 school aged pupils. The capacity number of school-aged pupils currently is 2,500, with the figure set to rise with the growth of the new schools.

Each of the schools is unique and distinctive within its own right but all share a common mission and values. We are also working in close partnership with several other schools and Trusts, developing wider educational relationships.

Our Trust

Our Academy Family



THE CREATIVE LEARNING PARTNERSHIP TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

Structure, governance and management

a. Constitution

The Academy Trust is a Company limited by guarantee and an exempt charity.

The Charitable Company's memorandum and articles of association are the primary governing documents of the Academy Trust.

The Trustees of The Creative Learning Partnership Trust are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law.

The charitable company is known as The Creative Learning Partnership Trust.

Details of the Trustees who served during the year and to the date these accounts are approved are included in the Reference and Administrative details on page 1.

b. Members' liability

Each member of the Charitable Company undertakes to contribute to the assets of the Charitable Company in the event of it being wound up while they are a member, or within one year after they cease to be a member, such amount as may be required, not exceeding £10, for the debts and liabilities contracted before they ceased to be a member.

c. Trustees' indemnities

The Trust was a member of the Risk Protection Arrangement (RPA) scheme for the accounting period ended 31st August 2025 and had unlimited Member, Trustee and Governor liability and indemnity.

d. Method of recruitment and appointment or election of Trustees

Members of the Trust are nominated by either the Secretary of State for Education or the Multi Academy Trust. The Articles of Association require the Members to appoint at least 5 Trustees to be responsible for the statutory and constitutional affairs of the Charitable Company and the management of the Academy.

e. Policies adopted for the induction and training of Trustees

All new Trustees meet initially with the Chair of Trustees and CEO. They then complete an application form that is then presented to the Members for the appointment to be agreed. Throughout the year, Trustees are given the opportunity to meet with the central team, visit the schools within the Trust and meet with the staff and pupils. New Trustees are provided with copies of the Trust strategy plans, policies, procedures, minutes, budgets, plans, strategy, safeguarding and risk register and other documents that they will need to fulfil their role as Trustees and members of the Trust. All Trustees are also required to adhere to a Trust Code of Conduct.

THE CREATIVE LEARNING PARTNERSHIP TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

Structure, governance and management (continued)

f. Organisational structure

The Trust board has overall responsibility and ultimate decision-making authority of the work of the Trust. The members of the Academy Trust have a distinct and separate role, holding the Trustees to account for the governance of the Trust and ensuring the purpose of the Trust is being met and its charitable purposes filled.

The Senior Management Team of the Trust: the Chief Executive Officer (CEO), the Deputy CEO/Director of Education, the Chief Financial Officer (CFO), Chief Operating Officer (COO) and Governance and Onboarding Manager develop the Trust wide strategy whilst all working closely with the leadership teams in all the schools. The Trust has within the central Team a Trust Management Accountant and an Executive Support Officer. Each school has either an Executive Headteacher or Headteacher supported by a Deputy Headteacher/Senior Leader and a Leadership Team.

The aim of the leadership structure is to develop responsibility, increase accountability and encourage involvement in decision making at all levels. The Trust, Trustees and the local governing bodies promote the development of future leaders and succession planning across the Trust, this is crucial to the organisation. The CEO of the Trust is the Accounting Officer.

The Senior Leadership Team of each school are responsible for the day-to-day management, acting on strategic decisions taken by the central team and the Board, and ensuring an annual school evaluation and improvement plan is set out, monitored and implemented successfully.

g. Arrangements for setting pay and remuneration of key management personnel

The pay structures for the leadership teams of the schools are set within the agreed pay policy for the Trust. All senior leaders are paid on the leadership scale for the school and within the range for the school size and the role that is undertaken. The Trustees are not paid for any work that they carry out as Trustees. The pay of the CEO, Deputy CEO, CFO and COO is set in line with national benchmarking information and has been agreed following annual appraisal. Details are in the Executive Pay Policy.

h. Trade union facility time

No employees were union officials for the period 1st April 2024 to 31st March 2025 (2024/2025).

i. Related parties and other connected charities and organisations

The Trust is not connected to any other charities and has no subsidiary organisations.

Trustees, Governors and key management personnel are required to disclose any potential or actual related parties for inclusion in the register of interests and relevant pecuniary interests are published on the Trust's or school's website. This register is updated on an ongoing basis.

THE CREATIVE LEARNING PARTNERSHIP TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

Structure, governance and management (continued)

j. Engagement with employees (including disabled persons)

The Trust is committed to fostering a culture of open communication, collaboration, and inclusion across all levels of the organisation. Throughout the academic year, the Trust maintains regular and structured communication with employees to ensure they are informed, consulted, and engaged in matters that affect them.

Weekly briefings are issued to all Trust leaders via the Leadership Update, and half-termly meetings are held with headteachers, deputy headteachers, and various staff networks. These include, but are not limited to, subject leaders, early career teachers, early years practitioners, safeguarding leads, and site supervisors. The central team also provides half-term updates to all staff across the Trust.

To further enhance engagement, the Trust utilises a range of communication channels including weekly recruitment emails, school-based stress risk assessments, and an annual Trust-wide employee survey. The Trust also produces a 'Partnership Podcast' to share updates and insights with all employees.

In addition, financial staff, subject leaders, and key leaders meet regularly to support strategic alignment and operational consistency. The central team supports schools in implementing a comprehensive workforce strategy, and the Trust's people strategy includes a clear focus on succession planning and professional development to ensure all staff are supported in their career progression.

The Trust is fully committed to promoting equality of opportunity for all employees and applicants, including those with disabilities. Recruitment and selection procedures are conducted in accordance with the Equality Act 2010, and applicants are encouraged to disclose any disabilities at the application stage. Occupational health screening is used to ensure appropriate support is provided, and reasonable adjustments are made in consultation with the individual, their line manager, and HR representatives.

Where a candidate requires adjustments to attend an interview, these are arranged in collaboration with the relevant school. Post-recruitment, any recommendations from occupational health are implemented to support the employee in their role. Should an employee become disabled during their employment, the Trust works closely with occupational health and the Department for Work and Pensions' Access to Work scheme to assess needs and implement necessary adjustments.

The Trust remains committed to its Wellbeing and Workload Strategy, ensuring that all employees are supported in maintaining a healthy work-life balance and a positive working environment.



THE CREATIVE LEARNING PARTNERSHIP TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

Objectives and activities

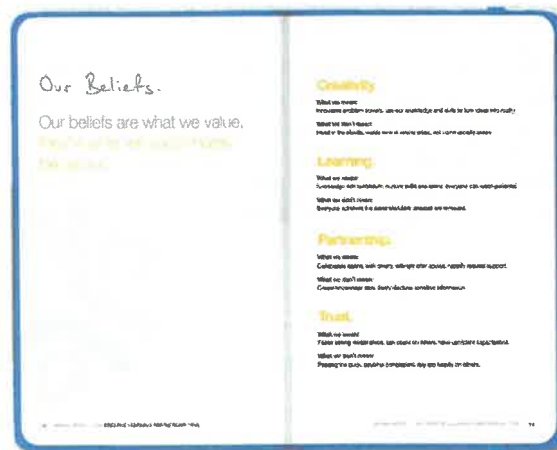
a. Objects and aims

Our Mission

As a Trust, our mission is built around these three big ideas. The Trust is creating transformational educative opportunities that impact pupils, staff, schools and the communities of which they serve. The Trust promotes social justice providing opportunities for all children. The Trust seeks to unlock individual freedom by ensuring that children and staff have the knowledge from their respective curriculums to be able to make informed choices throughout their life.

Our Beliefs

The name of our Trust, The Creative Learning Partnership Trust encapsulates our beliefs within our organisation - we are creative; we ensure excellent learning; we work in partnership, and we have trust in one another.



Our Values – how do we act and behave?

We promote the following values – we think they are important in helping us achieve our beliefs and purpose:



THE CREATIVE LEARNING PARTNERSHIP TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

Objectives and activities (continued)

Vision 2026

Our vision for pupils

We have one shot at a quality education. The better that shot is, the more likely it is that children will acquire the knowledge and cultural capital they need to succeed in life. Helping children have freedom of thought, freedom of expression, and freedom to make choices, is why we teach – this promotes social justice. 'Freedom' is realised through an ambitious curriculum. For our children to succeed we must also meet their social and emotional needs. Pupil wellbeing and personal development is therefore at the heart of what we do.

We are research/evidence informed organisation. That means that we draw upon 'best bets' from the education sector to build our curriculum offer. We have invested much time in recent years in setting out our 'conception of quality' – our shared idea of what makes for quality practice. This helps us all improve together and have a shared foundation of knowledge and thinking to build upon. This strong 'conception of quality' drives our school improvement work and collaboration. We have rationalised and summarised complex school improvement thinking into accessible documents that help us focus on the most important things.

We draw a careful distinction between curriculum, pedagogy and assessment – this ensures that the core knowledge we want pupils to know and remember is at the forefront of our thinking. This clarity about what we want to teach helps us think about how we might best approach teaching. We utilise a coaching approach and insights from research (including Barack Rosenshine's principles of instruction) to constantly improve our pedagogy. We understand the limitation of assessment and emphasise formative approaches (while capitalising on the careful analysis of summative tests and the benefits of assessment 'as' learning - 'the testing effect').

THE CREATIVE LEARNING PARTNERSHIP TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

Objectives and activities (continued)

Key Performance Indicators

- Schools must design and implement an ambitious, broad, well sequenced and knowledge-rich curriculum that secures impact.
- A school's curriculum must extend beyond the academic and prioritise children's personal development (wider opportunities, extra-curricular and promote pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development).
- Schools in the Trust should aim for children's outcomes to be above national benchmarks. Any gaps between disadvantaged and SEND groups should be rapidly closing.
- All children should secure progress as measured by both outcomes and their personal development.
- Attendance in all schools should be above national benchmarks.
- 90%+ of Parents and Carers would recommend the Trust schools to other parents.

Our vision for people

Our people and our staff are key to the success of the Trust. We strive for the Trust to be an employee of choice. Over 90% of our staff say that they enjoy working for the Trust and seek to promote it to others.

Once joining the Trust team, we offer curriculums for all our staff. These curriculums foster their talent and interests and are facilitated through the **Creative Learning College**. We offer the opportunity to work across schools, and many staff enjoy secondments that enhance their careers and provide new opportunities.

Diversity and inclusion are at the heart of our People Strategy. Building a diverse team sets a positive and powerful example to the young people and the communities we serve. Our children and staff should have role-models they can identify with. They should see people of all backgrounds, especially those with a similar background to their own, succeeding. As far as is possible, the staff of our schools reflect the demographics of the local communities they serve.

Our People Strategy is also grounded in the promotion of wellbeing. The Trust values its staff and aims to be an employer whom those in our communities want to work for. We treat our employees with respect, offering professional opportunities, training and development, together with a meaningful wellbeing and employee benefits scheme. We are alert to workload and seek to find ways to reduce the daily demands placed upon staff whilst maintaining a high-quality service.

Everything we do is about creating a culture with committed professionals who share the Trust's purpose, vision and values.

THE CREATIVE LEARNING PARTNERSHIP TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

Objectives and activities (continued)

Key Performance Indicators

- All schools are fully staffed with staff who have the necessary skills or experience needed for their role.
- 90%+ of staff surveyed use at least one of the Trust benefits provided.
- 90%+ of staff surveyed enjoy working within the Trust and see the Trust as an employer of choice
- Trust/schools offer secondments for personal development and professional development for all employees to strive to develop and learn.
- Trust staff recognise the critical value of high-quality teaching and champion the profession.

Our vision for community

We believe in the impact we can make within the local communities that our schools serve. We believe our schools are at the heart of our communities, impacting lives and raising aspirations. The Trust supports the community through providing a Nursery offer as well as an extended school day offer. Our schools also support the wider community by making links with vulnerable groups and offering a range of services including food banks, uniform swap shops, wellbeing services, parenting support, and signposting counselling and financial services.

Key Performance Indicators

- To grow the Trust by following a pragmatic and measured growth strategy.
- All schools at full capacity.
- All of the schools to offer community hub services such as uniform, food banks and wider advice and emergency support.
- All schools to support a local charity.

Our finances

Organisational sustainability through a strong financial strategy is crucial. As part of our Growth Strategy the Trust will continue to build the central resource and central operations, funded by the partnership fee. Our CFO in an expert in their field.

The Trust continues to explore areas where it can procure at scale and therefore achieve economies of scale. We have built important partnerships with key suppliers to provide a better service at cost. The Trust continues to develop a comprehensive framework of estate management, human resources and procurement. We have appointed a property service expert to manage our estates, support in the bidding for condition improvement funding (CIF) funding and oversee all property related matters across schools.

Our strategy is to maintain the long-term financial sustainability of the Trust whilst achieving high outcomes for all pupils. As a public organisation, it is essential that we demonstrate value for money, regularity and propriety.

Key Performance Indicators

- Staffing costs to be between 70% to 80%.
- Trust reserves to be maintained between 5% and 8%.
- Trust to be always at or above the Department for Education and Skills Funding Agency ratio of 1:1.
- Effective monthly monitoring reporting within 15 working days of month end.
- External funding streams both capital and revenue increase year on year.
- Clean audited accounts.

THE CREATIVE LEARNING PARTNERSHIP TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

Objectives and activities (continued)

Our operations and governance

The aim of our operational arm is to further strengthen the processes and procedures that exist within schools and communities.

We benefit from the expertise of a Governance and Onboarding Manager who is responsible for the overall strategic management of services that support effective governance across our schools. The Trust board holds the organisation to account. Trustees are clear about their duties and the statutory framework within which schools work. Though our Trustees hold ultimate responsibility and accountability, we believe the existence of local governing boards ensures schools remain rooted in their community and context. Local Governing Bodies (LGB) therefore provide challenge and support at a local level and makes recommendations to Trustees.

The Trust recognises the importance of a sustainability strategy. We have a moral duty to impact positively upon the environment. We do this principally by educating children through the curriculum. Collectively we undertake a wide range of actions to reduce our carbon footprint. Our Digital Strategy ensures we use technology in the most efficient and collaboratively way possible.

Key Performance Indicators

- Trust to have effective estates that meet the needs of all children.
- Trust to have 100% fast, reliable broadband and internet.
- Trust to reduce carbon footprint and energy use year on year.
- All LGB and Trust Boards to have high calibre membership.
- IT and technology to enable effective and efficient collaboration.

Safeguarding

Throughout the year, schools with the support of the Trust, have continued to identify risks and progress towards agreed actions and targets. The Trust has aligned processes and procedures to ensure that all pupils and adults are safe. The Trust provides safeguarding visits and peer to peer reviews to support greater support for safeguarding processes and the creation of a minimum standard trust wide.

Designated Safeguarding Leads, supported by their leadership teams, continually evaluate their actions and review the schools' arrangements for safeguarding under the expectations outlined by the Department of Education and the Local Authority. Safeguarding has continued to be a golden thread through our Trust, and all schools are compliant with Keeping Children Safe in Education 2025.

Public benefit

The Trustees have considered the charities commission guidance on public benefit. The key public benefit delivered by the Trust is the provision of high-quality education for all its pupils. Beyond this the schools aim to offer an education which provides exceptional opportunities for personal as well as academic development, which will be evidenced from feedback from external assessments.

Equal Opportunities Policy

The Trustees recognise that opportunities should be an integral part of school practice within the workplace for all stakeholders. The trust aims to establish equal opportunity in all areas of its activities including creating a working environment in which the contribution and needs of all staff and pupils are valued.

THE CREATIVE LEARNING PARTNERSHIP TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

Strategic report

Achievements and performance

The end of year assessments results for 2024/2025 for each of the academies are as follows:

Reception - Good Level of Development (GLD)

School	24/25 N67%
Green Lea	83%
Hempstalls	60%
Langdale	74%
Manor Hill	83%
Parkside	89%
Thursfield	65%
Doxey	62%
Beaconfields	80%

Year 1 Phonics Screening

School	24/25 N81%
Green Lea	88%
Hempstalls	78%
Langdale	97%
Manor Hill	83%
Parkside	95%
Thursfield	82%
Doxey	72%

THE CREATIVE LEARNING PARTNERSHIP TRUST
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TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

Strategic report (continued)

Achievements and performance (continued)

Year 4 Multiplication Check

School	24/25 N21%
Green Lea	22
Hempstalls	22.4
Langdale	22.9
Manor Hill	23
Parkside	23.3
Thursfield	22
Doxey	19.8

Key Stage 2 Assessments - combined

School	24/25 N62%
Hempstalls	72%
James Bateman	57%
Langdale	60%
Parkside	84%
Thursfield	70%
Doxey	74%

THE CREATIVE LEARNING PARTNERSHIP TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

Strategic report (continued)

Achievements and performance (continued)

Reading

School	24/25	
	EXP N75%	GD N33%
Hempstalls	82%	30%
James Bateman	88%	37%
Langdale	78%	32%
Parkside	89%	47%
Thursfield	83%	50%
Doxey	95%	26%

Writing (Teacher Assessment)

School	24/25	
	EXP N72	GD N13
Hempstalls	74%	11%
James Bateman	66%	7%
Langdale	75%	6%
Parkside	89%	25%
Thursfield	78%	35%
Doxey	89%	0%

THE CREATIVE LEARNING PARTNERSHIP TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

Strategic report (continued)

Achievements and performance (continued)

Maths

School	24/25	
	EXP N74	GD N26
Hempstalls	82%	21%
James Bateman	72%	17%
Langdale	74%	12%
Parkside	91%	35%
Thursfield	75%	38%
Doxey	79%	5%

Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar (SPAG)

School	24/25	
	EXP N73	GD N30
Hempstalls	66%	30%
James Bateman	80%	26%
Langdale	85%	25%
Parkside	93%	56%
Thursfield	75%	50%
Doxey	100%	32%

THE CREATIVE LEARNING PARTNERSHIP TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

Strategic report (continued)

Achievements and performance (continued)

Ofsted Inspections:

Green Lea (Convertor Academy) was inspected by Ofsted in March 2023 (prior to conversion) and the school was rated as Requires Improvement:

Greenhall School (Convertor Academy) was inspected by Ofsted in April 2025, and the school remained rated as outstanding.

Little Learners at Greenhall was inspected in August 2024 and the Nursery retained a good status.

Hempstalls Primary school (Convertor Academy) was inspected in October 2024 and rated as Good with two areas as Outstanding.

James Bateman Middle School (Convertor Academy) was inspected by Ofsted in July 2023, and the school retained a status of Good.

Langdale (Convertor Academy) was inspected by Ofsted in July 2024, and the school retained the grade of good with three areas outstanding.

Manor Hill First School (Convertor Academy) was inspected in September 2023, and the school retained a status of Good.

Parkside Primary School (Convertor Academy) was inspected in July 2022 and maintained the grade of good with one area judged as outstanding.

Thursfield Primary School was inspected by OFSTED in January 2025. The school maintained the rating of good.

Doxey Primary School was inspected by OFSTED in February 2023 (prior to conversion) and the school was rated as Requires Improvement.

Trust Context- Excluding Nursery children

Context	Summer 2025
Total	2238

Attendance

Measure	Summer 2025
Whole Trust	95%

The Trust attendance was above the national attendance. Persistent absence has reduced in most schools.

THE CREATIVE LEARNING PARTNERSHIP TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

Strategic report (continued)

Achievements and performance (continued)

Exclusions

There have been 3 permanent exclusions across the Trust this academic year and 78 suspensions fixed term exclusions.

Raising Standards

The trust carefully monitors the implementation of the annual improvement plans (SEIPS) within each school. These plans are then evaluated, including analysis of the impact of the work completed and measured against the targets. Based on the regular monitoring school improvement is at the heart of raising standards.

Strategic Framework for School Improvement

The Creative Learning Partnership Trust provides an excellent education for local children in Staffordshire. We are a family of schools who work collaboratively together to achieve the best possible outcomes for the young people and communities we serve. The Trust has a proven track record of sustained school improvement led by the education central team, supported by our own exceptional teachers and leaders. This framework has been developed with our leaders – it forms an agreed approach for continual improvement.

School improvement is our core business

Our strategic school improvement offer focuses on enabling and building capacity within our organisations. We ensure that we know our schools well, through professional discussions and visits, and offer bespoke support.

Our strategy is based on strong professional relationships and trust, rather than 'find the fault and fix it'; improvement should come from within; it should be a process that builds capacity. Working with school leaders, we identify priorities and areas of strength and expertise based upon our established conceptions of quality.

THE CREATIVE LEARNING PARTNERSHIP TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

Strategic report (continued)

Achievements and performance (continued)

Ways of working

Trust leaders and headteachers have co-produced a set of principles that guide school improvement work. The key principles are as follows:

Honesty	Accountability	Collaboration
Strong relationships	High challenge / Low Stakes	Respect and ambition
Knowing what is expected	A focus on impact (what children know and can do)	A sense of pride about what we do and why

Our shared conception of quality

We take an evidence-based approach to all our work – we have devised shared ‘conceptions of quality’ for the areas we seek to improve. This means that school improvement focuses on what research shows are the most important factors to consider when evaluating the effectiveness of provision. These conceptions of quality have been devised by our networks.

School improvement visits and system leadership

School improvement is underpinned by a framework that sets out our key areas of focus. **‘The Big 6’** rationalises and summarises a wide range of evidence and insight from the education world. It forms the backbone of our visits and is widely understood by leaders and governors. Following school improvement visits that utilise this framework, heads and Trust leaders build a bespoke package of ongoing support. Headteachers work with Trust leaders to evaluate provision and co-produce improvement plans. Schools receive a suite of visits and support based upon their categorisation (see below).

School improvement is supported by an experienced team of system leaders ‘teachers’ and ‘leaders’. These are staff from across the Trust who have a successful track record of working effectively to improve standards and outcomes within their own school and/or across a group of schools. They draw upon coaching and facilitation skills to bring about sustainable improvements.

Teachers are subject specialist practitioners with an excellent understanding of how their specialism and skills can contribute to wider school improvement goals with an analytical approach in identifying and prioritising needs and the ability to grow leadership capacity in others.

THE CREATIVE LEARNING PARTNERSHIP TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

Strategic report (continued)

Achievements and performance (continued)

Leaders are usually Head Teachers who have the capacity to support whole school improvements and work directly with Headteachers and other senior leaders.

To ensure that standards are continually raised, the Trust operates a very rigorous school improvement cycle. This includes visits linked to the school categorisation process from the Deputy CEO/Director of Education.

Going concern

After making appropriate enquiries, the Board of Trustees has a reasonable expectation that the Academy Trust has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. For this reason it continues to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements. Further details regarding the adoption of the going concern basis can be found in the Statement of Accounting Policies.

Trustees' Duty to Promote the Success of the Trust – Section 172 Companies Act Statement

Trustees have a duty to promote the success of the Trust to achieve its charitable purposes and in doing so, are required by Section 172 of the Companies Act 2006 to have regard to the following:

- The likely consequences of decisions in the long-term.
- The interests of employees.
- The need to foster the Trust's relationships with suppliers, customers and others.
- The impact of the Trust's operations on the community and the environment.
- The desirability of the Trust maintaining a reputation for high standards of business conduct.
- The need to act fairly as between members of the company.

The day-to-day management and decision-making of the Trust is delegated by the Trustees to the Chief Executive Officer, the Senior Management Team and the central team who act in furtherance of the Trust's strategy and in accordance with all policies and procedures approved by the Trustees or in accordance with the Trust's Scheme of Delegation. Policies and procedures are reviewed on a rolling cycle, and Trustees receive updates on the strategy, KPIs, performance and action plans at Trustee meetings in the light of the strategic plan. Active trust board and staff succession planning ensures that the Trust continues to have the people and leadership it needs to remain effective and provide sufficient diversity of perspectives to enable robust decision-making.

Strategic agendas are embedded within the governance framework with an emphasis on the Trust's vision and ethos at Trustee, committee and Member meetings. In addition, Trust board sub-committees review performance about the terms of reference outlining the oversight activities for each committee. A review of board effectiveness took place in the academic year 2021-2022 to improve the quality and impact of governance through an external review of governance but an internal review of governance is undertaken annually.

The Trustees have access to legal advisors for advice on legal and compliance matters and governance structures reinforce clearly defined roles and responsibilities. By ensuring clarity of purpose, beliefs and values and strategic direction and ensuring monitoring and accountability that drives up educational standards and financial performance, the Trustees obtain assurance that in promoting the success of the Trust, due regard has been given to the factors set out in section 172 of The Companies Act.

The Trust strategy is continually evolving and shared with all stakeholders linking to Vision 26. This working with Trust staff continues with annual surveys which at present includes a staff survey, allowing people to reflect and comment upon what has been learnt from the experience, what the Trust is getting right, what the Trust should consider doing differently and what the implications are for the future.

THE CREATIVE LEARNING PARTNERSHIP TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

Strategic report (continued)

Achievements and performance (continued)

The Trust maintains a reputation for high standards of business conduct through the shared purpose, beliefs and values of the Trust and all the schools, which underpins the governance and activities of the Trust. The Trust is committed to creating a culture that strongly reflects the purpose of creating transformational educative opportunities, promoting social justice and unlocking individual freedom.

The Trust Members uphold this purpose, beliefs and values as part of each annual general meeting (AGM). The Trust has implemented, and keeps under regular review, a suite of policies and procedures to promote its purpose, ethical behaviour and corporate compliance and responsibility, including (not exclusively) policies on safeguarding, health and safety, whistleblowing, procurement, conflicts of interest, related party transactions, code of conduct and dignity at work. Policies and compliance are subject to periodic review by internal audit.

The Trust board has several link Trustees in the areas of SEND, careers and safeguarding. Safeguarding is a standing item on the Trust Board and all meeting agendas. All staff and local governors undertake regular safeguarding training, and the Trust has strict safer recruitment processes in place. Every person involved in board governance throughout the Trust (Trustees and local governors) are required to disclose potential or actual conflicts of interest for inclusion in the register of interests and relevant pecuniary interests are published on the Trust's or school's website. Each year trustees are required to declare their ongoing eligibility to serve as a Trustee and the Trust Board undertakes a self-review of governance through a skills audit during the year as part of its commitment to continual improvement of board effectiveness. The Trustees support the principles of good governance set out in the Charity Governance Code.

Financial review

Most of the trust income is obtained from the Department for Education (DfE) in the form of recurrent grant or grants for maintenance projects, the use of which is restricted to particular purposes. The grants received from the DfE during the year ended 31 August 2025 and the associated expenditure is shown as restricted funds in the statement of financial activities..

The Trust also received income from Staffordshire Local Authority (LA) for supporting pupils with special educational needs and the funding related to the Early Years grant.

During the year ended 31 August 2025, total expenditure excluding depreciation of £1,052,958 amounted to £18,270,177, against income excluding capital grant income of £833,510 amounting to £19,048,859 resulting in an in year revenue surplus of £778,682 before Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS gains) and derecognition.

Overall LGPS costs for the year included an actuarial gain of £2,781,000 along with a charge of £769,000.

At the balance sheet date the Trust held £1,375,681 unrestricted funds.

a. Reserves policy

The Trust holds reserves to ensure that it can continue to operate and meet its objectives throughout the year. The level of reserves deemed acceptable by the Trustees for this purpose is 5-8% of the Trust's total revenue income. The actual reserves as at 31st August 2025 were 7.2% of total revenue income which is in line with the target set by Trustees. Trustees consider the level of reserves appropriate for this purpose and review them regularly.

THE CREATIVE LEARNING PARTNERSHIP TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

b. Investment policy

The Trust continues to review the level of cash within the bank. Any funds identified that are surplus to immediate cash requirements are transferred to an appropriate deposit account. A maximum investment term is no longer than twelve months. Interest rates on investments are regularly reviewed and compared with other investment opportunities.

c. Principal risks and uncertainties

The trustees have assessed the major risks to which the Trust is exposed, such as: ensuring the buildings are safe and well maintained; strategic; operational/safety and compliance areas of the Trust; finances. The Trustees have implemented a number of systems to assess risks that the Trust faces, especially in operational areas in relation to teaching, health and safety, bullying, school trips and in relation to asset management and the control of finance. They have introduced systems including operational procedures e.g. vetting new staff, supervision of school grounds, asset management service level agreement (SLA) and internal financial controls in order to minimise risk. Where significant risk still remains they have ensured there is adequate insurance cover and an effective system of adequate financial controls. A risk register has been developed which is reviewed on a regular basis every half term. The risk register identifies the key risks, the likelihood of these risks occurring, their potential impact on the Trust and the schools and the actions being taken to reduce and mitigate the risks. Risks are prioritised using a consistent scoring system and risks are then managed. The Trust risk register is supported by the individual schools' risk registers and includes contingency and business continuity planning.

Financial and Risk Management Objectives and Policies

The Trust has embedded a system of internal control including financial, operational and risk management which is designed to protect the Trust's assets and reputation. The finance and audit committees undertake a comprehensive review of risks to which the Trust is exposed, including the local government pension scheme. They identify systems and procedures including specific preventable actions which should mitigate any potential impact on the Trust. The internal controls are then implemented and the subsequent year's appraisal will review their effectiveness and progress against risk mitigation actions. In addition to the annual review, the finance and audit committees will also consider any risks which may arise as a result of new areas of work being undertaken by the Trust. The Trust employed an external company to carry out the internal audit process which included financial checks on the Trust for the financial year ending 31st August 2025.

Risk Management Process

The Trust has an embedded Trust-wide risk management process. This requires schools to complete risk registers at school level which then informs Trust level risk. The process covers the full spectrum of areas in which schools might face possible risk (health and safety, safeguarding, education, people, finance, operations (including estates management), legal and regulatory). This process allows the central team within the Trust to have a more detailed understanding of risk in every school, as well as a greater ability to spot trends that affect multiple schools.

Fundraising

The Academy Trust does not use any external fundraisers. All fundraising undertaken during the year was monitored by the Trustees.

THE CREATIVE LEARNING PARTNERSHIP TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

Streamlined energy and carbon reporting

2024-2025

Energy Source	Period of consumption	Consumption		Scope	Emissions Calculation	
Gas kWh	01/09/2024 to 31/08/2025	1779478	kWh	1	324.91	tCO2e
Electricity kWh	01/09/2024 to 31/08/2025	716009	kWh	2	125.22	tCO2e
Oil	01/09/2024 to 31/08/2025	31050	kWh	1	0.80934	tCO2e
LPG	01/09/2024 to 31/08/2025	0	kWh	1	0	tCO2e
Biomass	01/09/2024 to 31/08/2025	0	kWh	1	0	tCO2e
Transport - School fleet miles	01/09/2024 to 31/08/2025	5,133.48	kWh	1	1.12	tCO2e
Transport - Grey fleet	01/09/2024 to 31/08/2025	6626.32	kWh	3	6.64	tCO2e
Total		2538297	kWh		458.71	tCO2e

	Number of pupils		
Intensity Ratio	2285	0.201	tCO2e per pupil

Conversion factors taken from greenhouse gas (ghg) conversion factors 2025, in relation to company reporting of ghg emissions.

THE CREATIVE LEARNING PARTNERSHIP TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

Streamlined energy and carbon reporting (continued)

2023-2024

UK Greenhouse gas emissions and energy use data for the period	1 September 2022 to 31 August 2023	1 September 2023 to 31 August 2024
Energy consumption used to calculate emissions (kWh)	2,600,418	2,202,497
Energy consumption break down (kWh)		
• gas,	1,945,593	1,500,182
• electricity,	604,168	626,026
• oil		63,135
• transport fuel	50,658	13,154
<u>Scope 1 emissions in metric tonnes CO2e</u>		
Gas consumption	355.19	273.83
Owned transport – mini-buses	2.14	1.21
Oil	357.33	1.65
<u>Total scope 1</u>		276.69
<u>Scope 2 emissions in metric tonnes CO2e</u>		
Purchased electricity	123.83	128.29
<u>Scope 3 emissions in metric tonnes CO2e</u>		
Business travel in employee owned vehicles	13.84	7.82
Total gross emissions in metric tonnes CO2e	495	412.8
<u>Intensity ratio</u>		
Tonnes CO2e per pupil	0.221	0.178

Quantification and Reporting Methodology

The electricity, gas, fleet and grey fleet fuel consumption was compiled from invoices, meter readings and mileage records. Conversion factors from Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy 'Government conversion factors for company reporting of greenhouse gas emissions' 2024 have been used to convert the kWh consumption into the required tCO2e figures.

Intensity measurement

The chosen intensity measurement ratio is total gross emissions in metric tonnes CO2e per pupil, the recommended ratio for the sector.

Measures taken to improve energy efficiency

During the year new light-emitting diode (LED) lighting was installed at Greenhall school and any replacement lights across the Trust have been updated with LED lights. At James Bateman a new air source heat pump system has been installed and work has started on the air source heat pump at Thursfield Primary school.

THE CREATIVE LEARNING PARTNERSHIP TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

Plans for future periods

The Trust will continue to endeavour to provide the best possible education for all of its pupils, to enable everyone to achieve their potential. The Trust's overall purpose is to deliver its strategic mission, beliefs and values.

The trustees envisage that the Trust will grow providing further partnerships and ways of working that good and outstanding schools will be keen to join, including secondary schools. Furthermore, the Trustees would welcome the opportunity to provide partnerships or sponsor more schools in need of support. Our aim is to create a group of schools working together with common mission, belief and values across Staffordshire.

All further expansion will take account of the Creative Learning Partnership Trust's due diligence process when we form a judgement of any potential new partner. All decisions must be agreed and approved by the board of trustees. The protocol is based on the following key questions.

For the Trust:

- What will be the benefit to the current Creative Learning Partnership pupils of a new school joining the trust?
- In view of our moral imperative as part of our mission, is there a compelling reason for us to consider the application based on need (i.e. the school requires support).

Disclosure of information to auditor

Insofar as the Trustees are aware:

- there is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's auditor is unaware, and
- that Trustees have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditor is aware of that information.

The Trustees' report, incorporating a strategic report, was approved by order of the Board of Trustees, as the company directors, on 17 December 2025 and signed on its behalf by:

P Ford
Chair of Trustees



THE CREATIVE LEARNING PARTNERSHIP TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

Scope of responsibility

As Trustees we acknowledge we have overall responsibility for ensuring that The Creative Learning Partnership Trust has an effective and appropriate system of control, financial and otherwise. However, such a system is designed to manage rather than eliminate the risk of failure to achieve business objectives and can provide only reasonable and not absolute assurance against material misstatement or loss.

As Trustees, we have reviewed and taken account of the guidance in DfE's Governance Handbook.

The Board of Trustees has delegated the day-to-day responsibility to the CEO, as Accounting Officer, for ensuring financial controls conform with the requirements of both propriety and good financial management and in accordance with the requirements and responsibilities assigned to it in the funding agreement between The Creative Learning Partnership Trust and the Secretary of State for Education. They are also responsible for reporting to the Board of Trustees any material weaknesses or breakdowns in internal control.

Governance

The information on governance included here supplements that described in the Trustees' report and in the Statement of Trustees' responsibilities. The Board of Trustees has formally met 5 times during the year.

Attendance during the year at meetings of the Board of Trustees was as follows:

Trustee	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
P Ford - Chair	5	5
V Dalgamo	4	5
H Morrison	4	5
R Owen	1	1
S Compton	5	5
E Kelly-Brough	3	5
L Sanzeri	2	3
M Getty	3	5
E Cerioni	4	4
B Kellett	1	1
D Swift	5	5
C Gordon-Creed	2	3
J Pearce	1	3
R Skae	3	3

Following the external review of governance and an internal assessment of skills gaps, recruitment this year has focused on increasing the number of Trustees with finance, risk, HR, legal and educational background. The six new appointments all have this expertise.

The Creative Learning Partnership Trust Board is accountable to the Department for Education for the success of the work of the Trust and the achievement of its charitable goals. As such, it has ultimate decision-making rights. The Trust Board delegates its management of the interests to its CEO and central team on a day-to-day basis and is responsible for the success of the Trust. The role of the Trust Senior Management Team is to oversee the strategic direction of the Trust on behalf of the Trustees through its scheme of delegation and to anticipate, manage and mitigate risk. The CEO will act as a bridge between the two boards

THE CREATIVE LEARNING PARTNERSHIP TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

Governance (continued)

The Trust Board has a scheme of delegation. The schools each have a LGB who are accountable for standards, health and safety, safeguarding and the effective leadership and management within their school. The LGB delegates these responsibilities on a day-to-day basis to the Headteacher of the school who has operation control and responsibility for ensuring all legal and statutory obligations are met.

The Trust understands its responsibilities to the wider community and seeks to ensure that systems and processes are robust and transparent and able to demonstrate to external scrutiny that the Creative Learning Partnership Trust is an accountable and responsible organisation of the highest quality. The Trustees and Governing Bodies have completed the NGA Trustees/ Governing Bodies skills audit to assess their skills, 360-degree review of Chairs and have the knowledge and experience, to enable them to deliver the functions of the Trustee Board/governing body effectively.

Self-evaluation

Self-evaluation is the final agenda item on every Trust Board and Committee meeting, where discussions take place on what went well during the meeting and areas for improvement, including the documentation that is provided to the Trustees. Recommendations from these reviews are then implemented at the next meeting to ensure a continuous cycle of improvement. The Trust has self-evaluation processes with committee reflections, Chair 360 degrees and an annual audit of current practice.

Conflicts of Interest

Trustees are required to disclose any potential or actual related parties for inclusion in the register of interests which is published on the Trust or school website. This is updated on an ongoing basis and is an agenda item for every meeting where Trustees are required to declare any pecuniary and business interests and any interests pertaining to matters on the agenda.

Governance Review

As part of the Trust Board's external governance review programme, an external evaluation was integrated into the internal scrutiny framework. This review examined two key aspects of governance effectiveness:

1. The Operational Effectiveness of Trust Governance – No findings were identified in this area.
2. The Relationship Between Local Governance and the Trust Board/Committees – The review highlighted areas for development.

The report recognised that governance reviews are a regular practice at the Creative Learning Partnership Trust. These evaluations, embedded within the Trust's internal scrutiny programme, provide an independent, objective, and external perspective to monitor and enhance governance quality and impact.

However, the review identified areas for further improvement, particularly in fostering the Trust's culture, vision, ethos, and stakeholder engagement. Specific areas for development included:

- a) Enhancing processes for engaging stakeholders, including LGBs, to utilise feedback effectively.
- b) Strengthening mechanisms for collecting and incorporating parental feedback to inform decision-making.
- c) Improving two-way communication between LGBs and Trust Committees to ensure alignment and effectiveness.

THE CREATIVE LEARNING PARTNERSHIP TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

Governance (continued)

To address these findings, the following actions have been taken:

- A Governance Strategy Day was held, leading to the development and implementation of an engagement process.
- A governance leadership meeting is established where trustees and LGB representatives meet and work together on a termly trust theme.
- Trustees conducted a self-assessment audit, feeding into the Strategic Engagement Strategy to improve communication flow and strengthen governance at all levels.

The Trustees are committed to continuous improvement in governance, ensuring alignment with its strategic priorities and stakeholder needs.

The **Finance and Operations Committee** is a sub-committee of the main Board of Trustees, which covers finance, personnel, premises and operations. It is responsible to the Board.

Attendance during the year at meetings was as follows:

Trustee	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
P Ford - Chair	4	4
M Getty	1	4
L Sanzeri	2	2
R Owen	0	1
R Skae	3	3
V Dalgarno	3	4

The **Audit and Risk Committee** is also a sub-committee of the main Board of Trustees. Its purpose is to advise the Board on matters relating to the Trust's audit arrangements, systems of internal control and risk management.

Attendance during the year at meetings was as follows:

Trustee	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
E Kelly-Brough - Chair	3	3
H Morrison	2	3
C Gordon-Creed	2	2
D Swift	3	3

The **Standards Committee** is also a sub-committee of the main Board of Trustees. Its purpose is to advise the Board on matters relating to the Trust schools' performance in teaching and learning outcomes.

Attendance during the year at meetings was as follows:

Trustee	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
D Swift (Chair)	3	3
H Morrison	3	3
E Cerioni	1	2
J Pearce	1	1

THE CREATIVE LEARNING PARTNERSHIP TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

Review of value for money

As Accounting Officer, the CEO has responsibility for ensuring that the Trust delivers good value in the use of public resources. The Accounting Officer understands that value for money refers to the educational and wider societal outcomes, as well as estates safety and management, achieved in return for the taxpayer resources received.

The Accounting Officer considers how the Trust's use of its resources has provided good value for money during each academic year, and reports to the Board of Trustees where value for money can be improved, including the use of benchmarking data where appropriate. The Accounting Officer for the Academy Trust has delivered improved value for money during the year by:

- Value for money statements should always be matched against the achievement of pupils. The Academies regularly review staff deployment to ensure that staff are working effectively to ensure the best possible outcomes for pupils.
- All avenues are considered when making purchases or entering into SLA agreements. The SLAs are reviewed annually and alternatives are chosen on the basis of best value. As the Trust has grown contracts have been re-negotiated at Trust level to achieve economies of scale.
- Benchmarking activities are carried out annually to help assess performance.
- The Trust explores all opportunities to generate additional income, including hiring of Trust facilities, offering school to school support and submission of appropriate grant applications.
- The Trust has in place an Audit and Risk Committee that will maintain and oversee its risk management value for money framework and governance arrangements.
- The Trust ensures value for money on large projects such as the toilet refurbishment at Parkside and the nursery renovation at Hempstall through 3 quotes. A formal tender process is followed for larger projects.

The purpose of the system of internal control

The system of internal control is designed to manage risk to a reasonable level rather than to eliminate all risk of failure to achieve policies, aims and objectives. It can, therefore, only provide reasonable and not absolute assurance of effectiveness. The system of internal control is based on an on-going process designed to identify and prioritise the risks to the achievement of Trust trust policies, aims and objectives, to evaluate the likelihood of those risks being realised and the impact should they be realised, and to manage them efficiently, effectively and economically. A rolling three-year internal audit programme is in place, which is reviewed/amended as new risks arise and in accordance with the requirements of the Trust Handbook. The system of internal control has been in place in the Creative Learning Partnership Trust for the period 1st September 2024 to 31 August 2025 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and financial statements.

THE CREATIVE LEARNING PARTNERSHIP TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

Capacity to handle risk

The Board of Trustees has reviewed the key risks to which the Trust is exposed, together with the operating, financial and compliance controls that have been implemented to mitigate those risks. The Trustees have implemented several formal ongoing processes to assess risks that the Trust faces especially in operational areas in relation to estates management, teaching, health and safety, bullying and school trips and in relation to the control of finance. A risk register has been developed and is owned by the Board of Trustees who review it at least termly, drawing on the advice of the audit and risk committee. The risk register identifies the key risks, the likelihood of these risks occurring, their potential impact on the Trust and the academy and the actions being taken to reduce and mitigate the risks. Risks are prioritised using a consistent scoring system and risks are then managed through the escalation or de-escalation process. The Trust risk register is supported by the individual school risk registers and includes contingency and business continuity planning for all schools. The audit and risk committee regularly review, question and challenge the ongoing process for identifying, evaluating and managing the Trust and the schools' risks that have been in place and report this to the full Board. Therefore, the Board of Trustees is of the view that there is a formal on-going process for identifying, evaluating and managing the Trust's significant risks that have been in place for the period 1st September 2024 to 31 August 2025 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and financial statements. This process is regularly reviewed by the Board of Trustees

The risk and control framework

The Trust's system of internal financial control is based on a framework of regular management information and administrative procedures including the segregation of duties and a system of delegation and accountability. In particular it includes:

- comprehensive budgeting and monitoring systems with an annual budget and periodic financial reports which are reviewed and agreed by the Board of Trustees
- regular reviews by the Trustees of reports which indicate financial performance against the forecasts and of major purchase plans, capital works and expenditure programmes
- setting targets to measure financial and other performance
- clearly defined purchasing (asset purchase or capital investment) guidelines
- delegation of authority and segregation of duties
- identification and management of risks

The Board of Trustees has considered the need for a specific internal audit function and has agreed for the financial year ending 31st August 2025 that J Anderson of Education Business Consultancy Limited carries out the role of Internal Auditor for the Trust. Appointing an external company ensures that independent assurance is provided to the Board and this appointment complies with the Financial Reporting Council (FRC) Ethical Standard of not appointing the same company for both internal and external audit.

The internal auditor's role includes audit testing and giving advice on both financial and non-financial controls across the whole Trust. The work programme is driven by the Audit and Risk Committee and is informed by risk. The checks carried out for the period 1st September 2024 to 31st August 2025 included:

- Internal controls and procedures
- Census
- Financial Handbook
- IT Security and disaster recovery
- Provision of external consultancy
- Programme for repairs
- Governance
- Long term contracts
- Health and Safety

THE CREATIVE LEARNING PARTNERSHIP TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

The risk and control framework (continued)

On a termly basis, the internal auditor reports to the Board of Trustees through the audit and risk committee on the operation of the systems of control and on the discharge of the Board of Trustees' financial responsibilities. On an annual basis the internal auditor prepares a summary report to the committee outlining the areas reviewed, key findings, recommendations and conclusions to help the committee consider actions and assess year on year progress. The Internal Auditor has reported to the Board of Trustees through the Audit and Risk Committee the outcome of the internal audits.

Review of effectiveness

As Accounting Officer the Chief Executive Officer of the Creative Learning Partnership Trust has responsibility for reviewing the effectiveness of the system of internal control. During the year in question, the review was informed by:

- the work of the Internal Auditor
- the work of the Chief Financial Officer
- the work of the External Auditor
- the financial management and governance self-assessment process
- the work of the Senior Management Team and central team within the Trust who have responsibility for the development and maintenance of the internal control framework

The Accounting Officer has been advised of the implications of the result of their review of the system of internal control by the audit and risk committee and ensures recommendations are actioned to enable continuous improvement of the systems in place.

Conclusion

Based on the advice of the audit and risk committee and the Accounting Officer, the board of trustees is of the opinion that the Trust has an adequate and effective framework for governance, risk management and control.

Approved by order of the members of the Board of Trustees on 17 December 2025

and signed on

their behalf by:

P Ford
Chair of Trustees



S Compton
Accounting Officer



THE CREATIVE LEARNING PARTNERSHIP TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

STATEMENT OF REGULARITY, PROPRIETY AND COMPLIANCE

As accounting officer of The Creative Learning Partnership Trust, I confirm that I have had due regard to the framework of authorities governing regularity, propriety and compliance, including the Trust's funding agreement with DfE, and the requirements of the Academy Trust Handbook, including responsibilities for estates safety and management. I have also considered my responsibility to notify the academy Trust Board of Trustees and DfE of material irregularity, impropriety and non-compliance with terms and conditions of all funding, including for estates safety and management.

I confirm that I, and the Board of Trustees, are able to identify any material irregular or improper use of all funds by the Academy Trust, or material non-compliance with the framework of authorities.

I confirm that no instances of material irregularity, impropriety or non-compliance have been discovered to date. If any instances are identified after the date of this statement, these will be notified to the Board of Trustees and DfE



S Compton

Accounting Officer

Date: 17/12/25

THE CREATIVE LEARNING PARTNERSHIP TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

The Trustees (who are also the Directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' report and the financial statements in accordance with the Academies Accounts Direction published by the Department for Education, United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice) and applicable law and regulations.

Company law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under company law, the Trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles of the Charities SORP 2019 and the Academies Accounts Direction 2024 to 2025;
- make judgements and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in business.

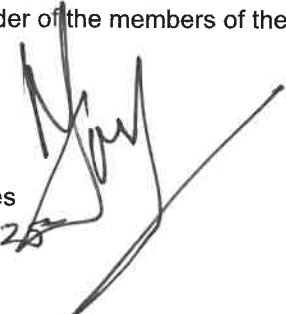
The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the charitable company's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The Trustees are responsible for ensuring that in its conduct and operation the charitable company applies financial and other controls, which conform with the requirements both of propriety and of good financial management. They are also responsible for ensuring grants received from DfE have been applied for the purposes intended.

The Trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charitable company's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

Approved by order of the members of the Board of Trustees and signed on its behalf by:

P Ford
Chair of Trustees
Date: 17/12/25



THE CREATIVE LEARNING PARTNERSHIP TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TO THE MEMBERS OF THE
CREATIVE LEARNING PARTNERSHIP TRUST**

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of The Creative Learning Partnership Trust (the 'Trust') for the year ended 31 August 2025 which comprise the Statement of financial activities, the Balance sheet, the Statement of cash flows and the related notes, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law, United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice), including Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland', the Charities Standard of Recommended Practice (SORP) 2019 and the Academies Accounts Direction 2024 to 2025 issued by the Department for Education.

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the Trust's affairs as at 31 August 2025 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006, the Charities SORP 2019 and the Academies Accounts Direction 2024 to 2025 issued by the Department for Education.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the Trust in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the United Kingdom, including the Financial Reporting Council's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the Trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the Trust's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the Trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

THE CREATIVE LEARNING PARTNERSHIP TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TO THE MEMBERS OF THE
CREATIVE LEARNING PARTNERSHIP TRUST (CONTINUED)**

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the Annual report other than the financial statements and our Auditor's report thereon. The Trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the Annual report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinion on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- the information given in the Trustees' Report including the Strategic Report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements.
- the Trustees' Report and the Strategic Report have been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of our knowledge and understanding of the Trust and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Trustees' Report including the Strategic Report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of Trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Responsibilities of Trustees

As explained more fully in the Statement of trustees' responsibilities, the Trustees (who are also the directors of the Trust for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the Trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the Trustees are responsible for assessing the Trust's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Trustees either intend to liquidate the Trust or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

THE CREATIVE LEARNING PARTNERSHIP TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TO THE MEMBERS OF THE
CREATIVE LEARNING PARTNERSHIP TRUST (CONTINUED)**

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an Auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

We obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory frameworks within which the charitable company operates, focusing on those laws and regulations that have a direct effect on the determination of material amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The laws and regulations we considered in this context were the Charities Act 2011 together with the Charities SORP (FRS 102), Companies Act 2006, Academies Accounts Direction and the Academy Trust Handbook. We assessed the required compliance with these laws and regulations as part of our audit procedures on the related financial statement items.

In addition, we considered provisions of other laws and regulations that do not have a direct effect on the financial statements but compliance with which might be fundamental to the charitable company's ability to operate or to avoid a material penalty. We also considered the opportunities and incentives that may exist within the charitable company for fraud. The key laws and regulations we considered in this context were General Data Protection Regulation, health and safety legislation, Ofsted and employee legislation.

Auditing standards limit the required audit procedures to identify non-compliance with these laws and regulations to enquire of the Trustees and other management and inspection of regulatory and legal correspondence, if any. We identified the greatest risk of material impact on the financial statements from irregularities, including fraud, to be within the timing and recognition of certain income streams and the override of controls by management. Our audit procedures to respond to these risks included enquiries of management and the Board about their own identification and assessment of the risks of irregularities, sample testing on the posting of journals, reviewing accounting estimates for biases, reviewing regulatory correspondence with the DfE, and reading minutes of meetings of those charged with governance.

Owing to the inherent limitations of an audit, there is an unavoidable risk that we may not have detected some material misstatements in the financial statements, even though we have properly planned and performed our audit in accordance with auditing standards. For example, the further removed non-compliance with laws and regulations (irregularities) is from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, the less likely the inherently limited procedures required by auditing standards would identify it. In addition, as with any audit, there remained a higher risk of non-detection of irregularities, as these may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal controls. We are not responsible for preventing non-compliance and cannot be expected to detect non-compliance with all laws and regulations.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our Auditor's report.

THE CREATIVE LEARNING PARTNERSHIP TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TO THE MEMBERS OF THE
CREATIVE LEARNING PARTNERSHIP TRUST (CONTINUED)**

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the Trust's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the Trust's members those matters we are required to state to them in an Auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the Trust and its members, as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



Matt Doyle-Healey (Senior statutory auditor)

for and on behalf of

Crowe U.K. LLP

Statutory Auditor

Black Country House

Rounds Green Road

Oldbury

West Midlands

B69 2DG

Date: 19 December 2025

THE CREATIVE LEARNING PARTNERSHIP TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

**INDEPENDENT REPORTING ACCOUNTANT'S ASSURANCE REPORT ON REGULARITY TO THE
CREATIVE LEARNING PARTNERSHIP TRUST AND THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EDUCATION**

In accordance with the terms of our engagement letter dated 5 September 2025 and further to the requirements of the Department for Education (DfE) as included in the extant Framework and Guide for External Auditors and Reporting Accountants of Academy Trusts 2024 to 2025, we have carried out an engagement to obtain limited assurance about whether anything has come to our attention that would suggest, in all material respects, the expenditure disbursed and income received by The Creative Learning Partnership Trust during the year 1 September 2024 to 31 August 2025 have not been applied to the purposes identified by Parliament and that the financial transactions do not conform to the authorities which govern them.

This report is made solely to The Creative Learning Partnership Trust and the Secretary of State for Education in accordance with the terms of our engagement letter. Our work has been undertaken so that we might state to The Creative Learning Partnership Trust and the Secretary of State for Education those matters we are required to state in a report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than The Creative Learning Partnership Trust and the Secretary of State for Education, for our work, for this report, or for the conclusion we have formed.

Respective responsibilities of The Creative Learning Partnership Trust's accounting officer and the reporting accountant

The accounting officer is responsible, under the requirements of The Creative Learning Partnership Trust's funding agreement with the Secretary of State for Education dated 10 June 2016 and the Academy Trust Handbook, extant from 1 September 2024, for ensuring that expenditure disbursed and income received is applied for the purposes intended by Parliament and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them.

Our responsibilities for this engagement are established in the United Kingdom by our profession's ethical guidance and are to obtain limited assurance and report in accordance with our engagement letter and the requirements of the extant Framework and Guide for External Auditors and Reporting Accountants of Academy Trusts 2024 to 2025. We report to you whether anything has come to our attention in carrying out our work which suggests that in all material respects, expenditure disbursed and income received during the year 1 September 2024 to 31 August 2025 have not been applied to purposes intended by Parliament or that the financial transactions do not conform to the authorities which govern them.

Approach

We conducted our engagement in accordance with the Framework and Guide for External Auditors and Reporting Accountant of Academy Trusts issued by DfE. We performed a limited assurance engagement as defined in our engagement letter.

The objective of a limited assurance engagement is to perform such procedures as to obtain information and explanations in order to provide us with sufficient appropriate evidence to express a negative conclusion on regularity.

A limited assurance engagement is more limited in scope than a reasonable assurance engagement and consequently does not enable us to obtain assurance that we would become aware of all significant matters that might be identified in a reasonable assurance engagement. Accordingly, we do not express a positive opinion.

Our engagement includes examination, on a test basis, of evidence relevant to the regularity and propriety of the Trust's income and expenditure.

The work undertaken to draw to our conclusion includes a review of the design and implementation of the Academy Trust's internal controls and review processes on regularity, supported by detailed tests on samples of costs incurred by the Academy Trust and specific transactions identified from our review.

THE CREATIVE LEARNING PARTNERSHIP TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

**INDEPENDENT REPORTING ACCOUNTANT'S ASSURANCE REPORT ON REGULARITY TO THE
CREATIVE LEARNING PARTNERSHIP TRUST AND THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EDUCATION
(CONTINUED)**

Conclusion

In the course of our work, nothing has come to our attention which suggest in all material respects the expenditure disbursed and income received during the year 1 September 2024 to 31 August 2025 has not been applied to purposes intended by Parliament and the financial transactions do not conform to the authorities which govern them.

Crowe UK LLP

Crowe U.K. LLP

Reporting Accountant

Black Country House
Rounds Green Road
Oldbury
West Midlands
B69 2DG

Date: 19 December 2025

THE CREATIVE LEARNING PARTNERSHIP TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (INCORPORATING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025**

	Note	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Restricted funds 2025 £	Restricted fixed asset funds 2025 £	Total funds 2025 £	Total funds 2024 £
Income from:						
Donations and capital grants:	3					
Transfer on conversion		-	-	-	-	11,958,383
Other donations and capital grants		9,129	-	833,510	842,639	1,232,951
Other trading activities	6	184,536	-	-	184,536	150,699
Investments		27,672	-	-	27,672	30,783
Charitable activities	4	1,271,900	17,555,622	-	18,827,522	15,538,721
Total income		1,493,237	17,555,622	833,510	19,882,369	28,911,537
Expenditure on:						
Raising funds		19,073	-	-	19,073	53,448
Charitable activities	7	756,670	17,479,434	1,067,958	19,304,062	16,036,806
Total expenditure		775,743	17,479,434	1,067,958	19,323,135	16,090,254
Net income/(expenditure)		717,494	76,188	(234,448)	559,234	12,821,283
Transfers between funds	19	(464,276)	374,946	89,330	-	-
Net movement in funds before other recognised gains/(losses)		253,218	451,134	(145,118)	559,234	12,821,283
Other recognised gains/(losses):						
Actuarial gains on defined benefit pension schemes	26	-	2,781,000	-	2,781,000	669,000
Pension surplus not recognised	26	-	(3,236,000)	-	(3,236,000)	(723,000)
Net movement in funds		253,218	(3,866)	(145,118)	104,234	12,767,283

THE CREATIVE LEARNING PARTNERSHIP TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (INCORPORATING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT)
(CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

Note	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Restricted funds 2025 £	Restricted fixed asset funds 2025 £	Total funds 2025 £	Total funds 2024 £
Reconciliation of funds:					
Total funds brought forward	1,122,463	-	48,714,797	49,837,260	37,069,977
Net movement in funds	253,218	(3,866)	(145,118)	104,234	12,767,283
Total funds carried forward	<u>1,375,681</u>	<u>(3,866)</u>	<u>48,569,679</u>	<u>49,941,494</u>	<u>49,837,260</u>

The Statement of Financial Activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

The notes on pages 43 to 76 form part of these financial statements.

THE CREATIVE LEARNING PARTNERSHIP TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)
REGISTERED NUMBER: 10226712

BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31 AUGUST 2025

	Note	2025 £	2024 £
Fixed assets			
Intangible assets	14	10,596	14,462
Tangible assets	15	47,590,476	47,548,394
		<u>47,601,072</u>	<u>47,562,856</u>
Current assets			
Debtors	16	2,077,041	2,023,868
Cash at bank and in hand		2,480,580	1,930,433
		<u>4,557,621</u>	<u>3,954,301</u>
Current liabilities			
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	17	(2,213,657)	(1,662,894)
Net current assets		<u>2,343,964</u>	<u>2,291,407</u>
Total assets less current liabilities		<u>49,945,036</u>	<u>49,854,263</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	18	(3,542)	(17,003)
Total net assets		<u>49,941,494</u>	<u>49,837,260</u>
Funds of the Trust			
Restricted funds	19	48,565,813	48,714,797
Unrestricted income funds	19	1,375,681	1,122,463
Total funds		<u>49,941,494</u>	<u>49,837,260</u>

The financial statements on pages 39 to 76 were approved and authorised for issue by the Trustees and are signed on their behalf, by:



P Ford
Chair of Trustees

Date: 17/12/25

The notes on pages 43 to 76 form part of these financial statements.

THE CREATIVE LEARNING PARTNERSHIP TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

	Note	2025 £	2024 £
Cash flows from operating activities			
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities	21	486,584	(613,390)
Cash flows from investing activities	23	77,024	297,464
Cash flows from financing activities	22	(13,461)	(13,461)
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year		550,147	(329,387)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year		1,930,433	2,259,820
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year	24, 25	2,480,580	1,930,433

The notes on pages 43 to 76 form part of these financial statements

THE CREATIVE LEARNING PARTNERSHIP TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

1. Accounting policies

A summary of the principal accounting policies adopted (which have been applied consistently, except where noted), judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty, is set out below.

1.1 Basis of preparation of financial statements

The financial statements of the Trust, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared under the historic cost convention in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard Applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Academies Accounts Direction 2024 to 2025 issued by DfE, the Charities Act 2011 and the Companies Act 2006.

1.2 Going concern

The Trustees assess whether the use of going concern is appropriate i.e. whether there are any material uncertainties related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the ability of the Trust to continue as a going concern. The Trustees make this assessment in respect of a period of at least one year from the date of authorisation for issue of the financial statements and have concluded that the Trust has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future and there are no material uncertainties about the Trust's ability to continue as a going concern, thus they continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

1.3 Income

All incoming resources are recognised when the Trust has entitlement to the funds, the receipt is probable and the amount can be measured reliably.

• **Grants**

Grants are included in the Statement of financial activities on a receivable basis. The balance of income received for specific purposes but not expended during the period is shown in the relevant funds on the Balance sheet. Where income is received in advance of meeting any performance-related conditions there is not unconditional entitlement to the income and its recognition is deferred and included in creditors as deferred income until the performance-related conditions are met. Where entitlement occurs before income is received, the income is accrued.

General Annual Grant is recognised in full in the Statement of financial activities in the year for which it is receivable and any abatement in respect of the year is deducted from income and recognised as a liability.

Capital grants are recognised in full when there is an unconditional entitlement to the grant. Unspent amounts of capital grants are reflected in the Balance sheet in the restricted fixed asset fund. Capital grants are recognised when there is entitlement and are not deferred over the life of the asset on which they are expended.

• **Donations**

Donations are recognised on a receivable basis (where there are no performance-related conditions) where the receipt is probable and the amount can be reliably measured.

THE CREATIVE LEARNING PARTNERSHIP TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

1. Accounting policies (continued)

1.3 Income (continued)

- **Other income**

Other income, including the hire of facilities, is recognised in the year it is receivable and to the extent the Trust has provided the goods or services.

- **Transfer on conversion**

Where assets and liabilities are received by the Trust on conversion to an academy, the transferred assets are measured at fair value and recognised in the Balance sheet at the point when the risks and rewards of ownership pass to the Trust. An equal amount of income is recognised as a transfer on conversion within 'Income from Donations and Capital Grants' to the net assets received.

1.4 Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to transfer economic benefit to a third party, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is classified by activity. The costs of each activity are made up of the total of direct costs and shared costs, including support costs involved in undertaking each activity. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs which contribute to more than one activity and support costs which are not attributable to a single activity are apportioned between those activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources. Central staff costs are allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges allocated on the portion of the asset's use.

- **Expenditure on raising funds**

This includes all expenditure incurred by the Trust to raise funds for its charitable purposes and includes costs of all fundraising activities events and non-charitable trading.

- **Charitable activities**

These are costs incurred on the Trust's educational operations, including support costs and costs relating to the governance of the Trust apportioned to charitable activities.

- **Grants payable**

These are charged in the year when the offer is made except in those cases where the offer is conditional, such grants being recognised as expenditure when the conditions attaching are fulfilled. Grants offered subject to conditions which have not been met at the year end are noted as a commitment, but not accrued as expenditure.

All resources expended are inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

THE CREATIVE LEARNING PARTNERSHIP TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

1. Accounting policies (continued)

1.5 Intangible assets

Intangible assets are capitalised and recognised when future economic benefits are probable, and the cost or value of the asset can be measured reliably.

Intangible assets are initially recognised at cost and are subsequently measured at cost net of amortisation and any provision for impairment.

Amortisation is provided on intangible assets at rates calculated to write off the cost of each asset on a straight-line basis over its expected useful life.

The estimated useful lives are as follows:

Computer software	- 10 years
-------------------	------------

1.6 Tangible fixed assets

Assets costing £3,000 or more are capitalised as tangible fixed assets and are carried at cost, net of depreciation and any provision for impairment.

Where tangible fixed assets have been acquired with the aid of specific grants, either from the government or from the private sector, they are included in the Balance sheet at cost and depreciated over their expected useful economic life. Where there are specific conditions attached to the funding requiring the continued use of the asset, the related grants are credited to a restricted fixed asset fund in the Statement of financial activities and carried forward in the Balance sheet. Depreciation on the relevant assets is charged directly to the restricted fixed asset fund in the Statement of financial activities. Where tangible fixed assets have been acquired with unrestricted funds, depreciation on such assets is charged to the unrestricted fund.

Depreciation is provided on all tangible fixed assets other than freehold land and assets under construction, at rates calculated to write off the cost of each asset over its expected useful life, as follows:

Depreciation is provided on the following bases:

Freehold property	-	2% straight line
Long-term leasehold property	-	2% straight line
Long-term leasehold land	-	over the lease term of 125 years
Improvements to leasehold	-	2% straight line
Furniture and equipment	-	25% straight line
Computer equipment	-	33% straight line
Motor vehicles	-	20% straight line
Freehold land	-	not depreciated

A review for impairment of a fixed asset is carried out if events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying value of any fixed asset may not be recoverable. Shortfalls between the carrying value of fixed assets and their recoverable amounts are recognised as impairments. Impairment losses are recognised in the Statement of financial activities.

THE CREATIVE LEARNING PARTNERSHIP TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

1. Accounting policies (continued)

1.7 Liabilities

Liabilities are recognised when there is an obligation at the Balance sheet date as a result of a past event, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefit will be required in settlement, and the amount of the settlement can be estimated reliably. Liabilities are recognised at the amount that the Trust anticipates it will pay to settle the debt or the amount it has received as advanced payments for the goods or services it must provide.

1.8 Financial instruments

The Trust only holds basic financial instruments as defined in FRS 102. The financial assets and financial liabilities of the Trust and their measurement bases are as follows:

Financial assets - trade and other debtors are basic financial instruments and are debt instruments measured at amortised cost as detailed in note 16. Prepayments are not financial instruments.

Cash at bank is classified as a basic financial instrument and is measured at face value.

Financial liabilities - trade creditors, accruals and other creditors are financial instruments, and are measured at amortised cost as detailed in notes 17 and 18. Taxation and social security are not included in the financial instruments disclosure definition. Deferred income is not deemed to be a financial liability, as the cash settlement has already taken place and there is an obligation to deliver services rather than cash or another financial instrument.

1.9 Pensions

Retirement benefits to employees of the Trust are provided by the Teachers' Pension Scheme ("TPS") and the Local Government Pension Scheme ("LGPS"). These are defined benefit schemes.

The TPS is an unfunded scheme and contributions are calculated to spread the cost of pensions over employees' working lives with the Trust in such a way that the pension cost is a substantially level percentage of current and future pensionable payroll. The contributions are determined by the Government Actuary based on quadrennial valuations using a prospective unit credit method. TPS is an unfunded multi-employer scheme with no underlying assets to assign between employers. Consequently, the TPS is treated as a defined contribution scheme for accounting purposes and the contributions recognised in the period to which they relate.

The LGPS is a funded multi-employer scheme, and the assets are held separately from those of the Trust in separate Trustee administered funds. Pension scheme assets are measured at fair value and liabilities are measured on an actuarial basis using the projected unit credit method and discounted at a rate equivalent to the current rate of return on a high quality corporate bond of equivalent term and currency to the liabilities. The actuarial valuations are obtained at least triennially and are updated at each Balance sheet date. The amounts charged to operating surplus are the current service costs and the costs of scheme introductions, benefit changes, settlements and curtailments. They are included as part of staff costs as incurred. Net interest on the net defined benefit liability/asset is also recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities and comprises the interest cost on the defined benefit obligation and interest income on the scheme assets, calculated by multiplying the fair value of the scheme assets at the beginning of the period by the rate used to discount the benefit obligations. The difference between the interest income on the scheme assets and the actual return on the scheme assets is recognised in other recognised gains and losses.

THE CREATIVE LEARNING PARTNERSHIP TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

1. Accounting policies (continued)

1.9 Pensions (continued)

Actuarial gains and losses are recognised immediately in other recognised gains and losses. The Trust does not recognise any asset if the Defined Benefit pension scheme is valued as a surplus. A derecognition amount is recognised within the Statement of Financial Activities.

1.10 Fund accounting

Unrestricted income funds represent those resources which may be used towards meeting any of the charitable objects of the Trust at the discretion of the Trustees.

Restricted fixed asset funds are resources which are to be applied to specific capital purposes imposed by the funders where the asset acquired or created is held for a specific purpose.

Restricted general funds comprise all other restricted funds received with restrictions imposed by the funder/donor and include grants from the Department for Education Group.

Investment income, gains and losses are allocated to the appropriate fund.

2. Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgement

Estimates and judgements are continually evaluated and are based on historical experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances.

Critical accounting estimates and assumptions:

The Trust makes estimates and assumptions concerning the future. The resulting accounting estimates and assumptions will, by definition, seldom equal the related actual results. The estimates and assumptions that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next financial year are discussed below.

The present value of the Local Government Pension Scheme defined benefit liability depends on a number of factors that are determined on an actuarial basis using a variety of assumptions. The assumptions used in determining the net cost or income for pensions include the discount rate. Any changes in these assumptions, which are disclosed in note 26, will impact the carrying amount of the pension liability. Furthermore a roll forward approach which projects results from the latest full actuarial valuation performed at 31 March 2022 has been used by the actuary in valuing the pensions liability at 31 August 2025. Any differences between the figures derived from the roll forward approach and a full actuarial valuation would impact on the carrying amount of the pension liability.

The asset values are reported using estimated asset allocations prepared by the scheme Actuary. The asset value is calculated at each triennial valuation. Thereafter it is rolled forward to accounting dates using investment returns, contributions received and benefits paid out. During each annual reporting period between triennial valuations, asset returns are estimated using 11 months of market experience and one month of extrapolation being assumed.

Where a scheme is in a surplus according to the accounting valuation the associated asset has not been recognised on the basis that it is not likely to be recoverable either through future reductions in contributions rates or future repayments. Further details of pension assets not recognised can be found with the pensions note to the financial statements.

THE CREATIVE LEARNING PARTNERSHIP TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

3. Income from donations and capital grants

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Restricted funds 2025 £	Restricted fixed asset funds 2025 £	Total funds 2025 £
Transfer on conversion	-	-	-	-
Donated from Local Authority	-	-	-	-
Donations	9,129	-	-	9,129
CIF grants	-	-	727,416	727,416
Capital grants	-	-	106,094	106,094
	<u>9,129</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>833,510</u>	<u>842,639</u>

	<i>Restricted funds 2024 £</i>	<i>Restricted fixed asset funds 2024 £</i>	<i>Total funds 2024 £</i>
Transfer on conversion	(275,000)	6,073,000	5,798,000
Donated from Local Authority	-	6,160,383	6,160,383
Donations	24,526	-	24,526
CIF grants	-	1,147,317	1,147,317
Capital grants	-	61,108	61,108
	<u>(250,474)</u>	<u>13,441,808</u>	<u>13,191,334</u>

4. Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Restricted funds 2025 £	Total funds 2025 £
Income from Educational Operations	557,139	15,921,848	16,478,987
Income from Nursery	390,692	1,633,774	2,024,466
Income from Care club	324,069	-	324,069
	<u>1,271,900</u>	<u>17,555,622</u>	<u>18,827,522</u>

THE CREATIVE LEARNING PARTNERSHIP TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025**

4. Income from charitable activities (continued)

	<i>Unrestricted funds 2024 £</i>	<i>Restricted funds 2024 £</i>	<i>Total funds 2024 £</i>
Income from Educational Operations	512,840	13,196,552	13,709,392
Income from Nursery	442,338	1,130,917	1,573,255
Income from Care club	256,074	-	256,074
	<u>1,211,252</u>	<u>14,327,469</u>	<u>15,538,721</u>

5. Funding for the Trust's charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Restricted funds 2025 £	Total funds 2025 £
Educational Operations			
DfE grants			
General Annual Grant	-	11,597,511	11,597,511
Other DfE grants			
Pupil premium	-	769,230	769,230
Core schools budget grant	-	416,732	416,732
Other DfE grants	-	1,035,800	1,035,800
	<u>-</u>	<u>13,819,273</u>	<u>13,819,273</u>
Other Government grants			
SEN funding	-	1,813,924	1,813,924
Local authority grants	-	288,651	288,651
	<u>-</u>	<u>2,102,575</u>	<u>2,102,575</u>
Other income from the Trust's educational operations	557,139	-	557,139
	<u>557,139</u>	<u>15,921,848</u>	<u>16,478,987</u>

THE CREATIVE LEARNING PARTNERSHIP TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

5. Funding for the Trust's charitable activities (continued)

	<i>Unrestricted funds 2024 £</i>	<i>Restricted funds 2024 £</i>	<i>Total funds 2024 £</i>
Educational Operations			
DfE grants			
General Annual Grant	-	9,925,992	9,925,992
Other DfE grants			
Pupil premium	-	643,342	643,342
Other DfE grants	-	1,027,627	1,027,627
Mainstream Additional Support Grant	-	326,621	326,621
	-	11,923,582	11,923,582
Other Government grants			
SEN funding	-	1,187,699	1,187,699
Local authority grants	-	85,271	85,271
	-	1,272,970	1,272,970
Other income from the Trust's educational operations	512,840	-	512,840
	512,840	13,196,552	13,709,392

6. Income from other trading activities

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Total funds 2025 £
Other income	184,536	184,536
	184,536	184,536
	<i>Unrestricted funds 2024 £</i>	<i>Total funds 2024 £</i>
Other income	150,699	150,699
	150,699	150,699

THE CREATIVE LEARNING PARTNERSHIP TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

7. Expenditure

	Staff Costs 2025 £	Premises 2025 £	Other 2025 £	Total 2025 £
Expenditure on fundraising trading activities:				
Direct costs	-	-	19,073	19,073
Educational Operations:				
Direct costs	11,261,260	-	984,843	12,246,103
Allocated support costs	1,543,707	1,956,229	1,623,170	5,123,106
Nursery costs:				
Allocated support costs	1,583,508	37	72,102	1,655,647
Care club costs:				
Allocated support costs	260,882	-	18,324	279,206
	<u>14,649,357</u>	<u>1,956,266</u>	<u>2,717,512</u>	<u>19,323,135</u>
	<i>Staff Costs</i> 2024 £	<i>Premises</i> 2024 £	<i>Other</i> 2024 £	<i>Total</i> 2024 £
Expenditure on fundraising trading activities:				
Direct costs	-	-	53,448	53,448
Educational Operations:				
Direct costs	9,684,096	-	954,093	10,638,189
Allocated support costs	880,623	1,603,986	1,268,094	3,752,703
Nursery costs:				
Allocated support costs	1,408,852	16	60,994	1,469,862
Care club costs:				
Allocated support costs	168,151	-	7,901	176,052
	<u>12,141,722</u>	<u>1,604,002</u>	<u>2,344,530</u>	<u>16,090,254</u>

THE CREATIVE LEARNING PARTNERSHIP TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

8. Analysis of expenditure by activities

	Activities undertaken directly 2025 £	Support costs 2025 £	Total funds 2025 £
Educational Operations	12,246,103	5,123,106	17,369,209
Nursery	-	1,655,647	1,655,647
Care club	-	279,206	279,206
	<u>12,246,103</u>	<u>7,057,959</u>	<u>19,304,062</u>

	<i>Activities undertaken directly 2024 £</i>	<i>Support costs 2024 £</i>	<i>Total funds 2024 £</i>
Educational Operations	10,638,189	3,752,703	14,390,892
Nursery	-	1,469,862	1,469,862
Care club	-	176,052	176,052
	<u>10,638,189</u>	<u>5,398,617</u>	<u>16,036,806</u>

THE CREATIVE LEARNING PARTNERSHIP TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

8. Analysis of expenditure by activities (continued)

Analysis of support costs

	Total funds 2025 £	<i>Total funds 2024 £</i>
Staff costs	3,388,097	2,457,626
Depreciation	1,067,958	783,429
Technology costs	323,890	289,836
Other costs	1,111,345	791,070
Premises expenses	899,442	816,707
Legal and professional	231,555	231,763
Governance	31,806	24,320
Amortisation	3,866	3,866
	<u>7,057,959</u>	<u>5,398,617</u>

Included within governance costs are costs associated with the strategic as opposed to day-to-day management of the Trust's activities and include costs relating to constitutional and statutory requirements including audit and preparation of statutory accounts.

9. Net income/(expenditure)

Net income/(expenditure) for the year includes:

	2025 £	<i>2024 £</i>
Operating lease rentals	29,588	33,625
Depreciation	1,056,824	783,429
Current service cost	455,000	329,000
Fees paid to auditor for:		
- audit	20,900	19,825
- other services	2,800	2,625
	<u>1,568,112</u>	<u>1,168,504</u>

THE CREATIVE LEARNING PARTNERSHIP TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

10. Staff

a. Staff costs and employee benefits

Staff costs during the year were as follows:

	2025 £	2024 £
Wages and salaries	10,736,595	9,158,476
Social security costs	1,294,085	860,727
Pension costs	2,407,335	1,977,084
	<u>14,438,015</u>	<u>11,996,287</u>
Agency staff costs	199,107	145,435
Staff restructuring costs	12,235	-
	<u>14,649,357</u>	<u>12,141,722</u>

Staff restructuring costs comprise:

Severance payments	<u>12,235</u>	<u>1,278</u>
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b. Severance payments

The Trust paid 1 severance payment in the year (2024 - 1), disclosed in the following bands:

	2025 No.	2024 No.
£0 - £25,000	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>

c. Staff numbers

The average number of persons employed by the Trust during the year was as follows:

	2025 No.	2024 No.
Teachers	116	109
Administration and support	291	310
Management	12	13
	<u>419</u>	<u>432</u>

THE CREATIVE LEARNING PARTNERSHIP TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

10. Staff (continued)

d. Higher paid staff

The number of employees whose employee benefits (excluding employer pension costs) exceeded £60,000 was:

	2025	2024
	No.	No.
In the band £60,001 - £70,000	9	4
In the band £70,001 - £80,000	3	7
In the band £80,001 - £90,000	5	1
In the band £90,001 - £100,000	1	1
In the band £100,001 - £110,000	1	1
In the band £120,001 - £130,000	1	-

e. Key management personnel

The key management personnel of the Trust comprise the Trustees and the senior management team as listed on page 1. The total amount of key management personnel benefits (including employer pension contributions and employer national insurance contributions) received by key management personnel for their services to the Trust was £525,533 (2024 - £398,825).

THE CREATIVE LEARNING PARTNERSHIP TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

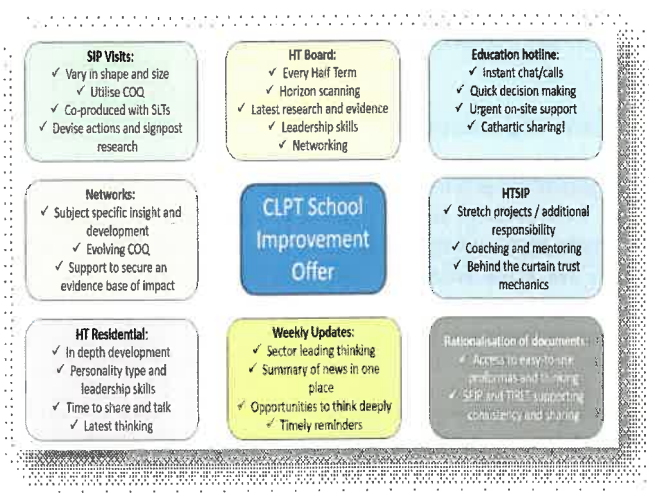
11. Central services

The services outlined are summarised on the final page as our 'dividend' (the collective shared benefits of being in our trust). The trust charges a Flat percentage (5%) of general annual grant partnership fee for these services. For ease of reference the services are set out across our three directorates:

1. Education
2. Finance
3. Operations

1. Education

The education offer is summarised in the following schematic:



SIP visits

Schools receive a minimum of three visits per year subject to their needs and stage of development. Where schools have multiple areas for development, improvement visits increase in frequency and duration. Visits utilise the 'conceptions of quality' developed by our networks to check for impact across all aspects of provision.

Headteacher Board and Residential

Headteachers receive a curriculum of professional development that targets common school priorities and generic leadership skills. Board meetings take place every six weeks and culminate in a two-day residential at the end of the school year. This helps us review the impact of the education directorate over time and plan for the ongoing leadership curriculum.

Networks

Schools have access to twelve subject networks. Networks take place termly. They are used to update our conceptions of quality, share best practice and consider ways in which we build an evidence base of the impact of our work overtime. Deputy headteachers have their own dedicated network – this network meets termly and their curriculum package includes a two day residential in January.

THE CREATIVE LEARNING PARTNERSHIP TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

11. Central services (continued)

Education hotline and weekly update

All staff within the Trust have access to expert advice at any time. The CEO and DCEO respond to multiple communications daily relating to school matters. Where the need arises, this support is on site. Where we do not have the local expertise to respond to an issue, we make use of our professional networks or membership with associations. Headteachers receive a weekly communication that keeps them abreast with local developments and provides an overview of emerging national educational matters.

Headteacher school improvement partners (HTSIP)

Headteachers have a termly opportunity to undertake a project that supports the overall development of the Trust. They receive coaching and support to lead their project areas and an additional leadership allowance.

Support staff

Our support staff have access to a bespoke menu of opportunities. Our early years team have a further discreet 'practitioner curriculum' to ensure our children receive the best possible start in life.

Teachers that are new to the profession

Our Early Career teachers (ECTs) receive a programme of training that follows on from their initial teacher training. We have trained mentors who ensure this programme meets their needs and has impact in the classroom.

Rationalisation of documents (cutting bureaucracy)

The education directorate constantly strives to:

- ✓ Help leaders focus on the things that matter most.
- ✓ Reduce unnecessary workload.

To this end, executive leaders have developed (and continue to develop) a suite of resources to make life easier. These resources all link to our overall strategy.

THE CREATIVE LEARNING PARTNERSHIP TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

11. Central services (continued)

2. Finance directorate

Led by the CFO, the finance team provide a comprehensive package of financial support to Trust schools which includes:

- ✓ Completion of all DfE returns including: BFR, Landing and Buildings, Annual Accounts return, Annual rates reclaim
- ✓ Preparation of monthly management accounts along with monthly or bimonthly meetings with the Headteacher
- ✓ Strategic financial planning and monitoring of cash flow
- ✓ Budget monitoring with monthly forecasting
- ✓ Insurance and risk management co-ordination
- ✓ Maintenance of financial policies and functions
- ✓ Termly meetings with bursars and finance staff to include regular briefings on financial and operational matters
- ✓ Administration of the Local Government Pension scheme and Teachers' Pension Scheme including completion of the end of year returns and audit administration
- ✓ Regularity audits and liaison with Internal and External Auditors
- ✓ Administration of annual actuarial valuations
- ✓ Administration and payment of the apprenticeship levy
- ✓ Supporting schools apply for additional grants
- ✓ Ongoing training and support on all financial software, procedures and reporting. Bespoke training provided to individual schools
- ✓ Practical support with budget setting incorporating ICFP data
- ✓ Maintenance of fixed asset register
- ✓ Management of all month end procedures including VAT returns to HMRC
- ✓ Trust contract procurement

THE CREATIVE LEARNING PARTNERSHIP TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

11. Central services (continued)

3. Operations directorate

- ✓ Governor support development opportunities include:
 - ◆ Governance professional to support full governor process
 - ◆ Governor induction
 - ◆ Coaching
 - ◆ Holding leaders to account
 - ◆ Heads' and Chairs' meetings
 - ◆ Clerking support

- ✓ Fully managed IT service with full week help desk support and 5-year plans for all the IT estate
- ✓ Cyber training and active email threat protection
- ✓ KCISE compliant fast broadband and content filtering
- ✓ Estate Strategy to include asset planning, surveys and support
- ✓ Energy Strategy to reduce, where possible, costs and emissions
- ✓ Termly Site Supervisor network meetings for shared collaboration and learning
- ✓ Access to a suite of policies which are legally compliant, and which are Union recognised
- ✓ Support with asset management planning
- ✓ Health and safety advice and support
- ✓ Support for asbestos and managing its risk
- ✓ Risk management and support
- ✓ HR service, ongoing training and support for Heads
- ✓ Wellbeing and workload policies to support existing and new staff including 24/7 GP access, physio, counselling and a wellbeing day
- ✓ ICO registration and data protection support
- ✓ Access to legal support and suites of packs for managing complaints and behaviour
- ✓ Practical marketing support for schools

THE CREATIVE LEARNING PARTNERSHIP TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

11. Central services (continued)

Summary – the Trust Dividend

We use the word 'dividend' to emphasise the collective shared benefits of being in our Trust. The table below summarises our mission and the benefits of being in our Trust on one page – it represents our ambition for pupils, people and our communities.

Our over-arching mission, beliefs and values		
<div style="background-color: #ffff00; padding: 10px; margin: 0 auto; width: 80%; border: 1px solid black;"> Creating transformational educative opportunities; promoting social justice; unlocking individual freedom. </div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Creativity is crucial - it is the act of using our knowledge and skills to turn ideas into reality. Learning is fundamental. The Trust ensures that all our children achieve the highest possible outcomes whilst nurturing their skills and talents. Partnership is key. We know that collaboration and partnerships drive forward improvement. Trust is vital. Trust permeates our organisation. We foster trusting relationships with all stakeholders to provide an exceptional education for our children. 		
Our vision for pupils:	Our vision for people:	Our vision for communities:
Strong attendance and outcomes for all. Freedom and Justice. A knowledge rich curriculum. Research/evidence informed teaching.	Collaboration and kindness. Opportunities to develop and learn. A focus on wellbeing and workload.	Schools at the heart of the community they serve. A range of benefits to support families and vulnerable groups. Ongoing support as pupils transition to their next school and beyond.
Central Services Promise:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expert financial, human resource and operational advice. A lead governance professional supporting effective governance. Coaching and support from System leaders – experts in their field. School improvement that is collaborative and research/evidence informed. A shared conception of what makes for quality practice – helping us to improve together and with a shared foundation of knowledge and thinking to build upon. A programme of learning from the Creative Learning Hub that nurtures people's skills and talents. 		

THE CREATIVE LEARNING PARTNERSHIP TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025**

11. Central services (continued)

The Trust charges for these services on the following basis:

The Trust charges for these services on a 5% basis applied to the GAG income received by each constituent school. Any surplus generated is held as a contingency reserve for use in future periods.

The actual amounts charged during the year were as follows:

	2025	2024
	£	£
Hempstalls Primary School	103,050	95,227
Parkside Primary School	76,987	71,141
Thursfield Primary School	67,456	62,992
James Bateman Middle School	116,528	105,399
Manor Hill First School	51,871	45,385
Langdale Primary School	84,705	81,256
Greenhall Nursery	20,201	13,000
Green Lea Primary School	20,431	20,631
Beaconfields Primary School	13,029	-
Doxey Academy	55,385	4,472
Total	609,643	499,503

12. Trustees' remuneration and expenses

One or more Trustees has been paid remuneration or has received other benefits from an employment with the Trust. The principal and other staff Trustees only receive remuneration in respect of services they provide undertaking the roles of principal and staff members under their contracts of employment. The value of Trustees' remuneration and other benefits was as follows:

		2025	2024
		£	£
S Compton, Chief Executive and Accounting officer	Remuneration	120,000 -	105,000 -
		125,000	110,000
	Pension contributions paid	35,000 -	25,000 -
		40,000	30,000

During the year ended 31 August 2025, no Trustee expenses have been incurred (2024 - £NIL).

THE CREATIVE LEARNING PARTNERSHIP TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

13. Trustees' and Officers' insurance

In accordance with normal commercial practice, the Trust has purchased insurance to protect Trustees and officers from claims arising from negligent acts, errors or omissions occurring whilst on Trust business. The insurance provides cover up to £10,000,000 on any one claim and the cost for the year ended 31 August 2025 was £59,047 (2024 - £41,468). The cost of this insurance is included in the total insurance cost.

14. Intangible assets

	Computer software £
Cost	
At 1 September 2024	38,657
At 31 August 2025	<u>38,657</u>
Amortisation	
At 1 September 2024	24,195
Charge for the year	3,866
At 31 August 2025	<u>28,061</u>
Net book value	
At 31 August 2025	<u>10,596</u>
At 31 August 2024	<u>14,462</u>

THE CREATIVE LEARNING PARTNERSHIP TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025**

15. Tangible fixed assets	Freehold land and property £	Long-term leasehold property £	Leasehold property improv £	Assets under constr. £	Furniture and equipment £	Computer equipment £	Motor vehicles £	Freehold property improv. £	Total £
Cost or valuation									
At 1 September 2024	21,467,000	25,743,000	1,529,406	153,146	602,372	860,314	4,500	1,754,526	52,114,264
Additions	-	-	23,000	795,212	15,427	59,183	-	217,218	1,110,040
Disposals	-	-	-	-	-	(15,000)	-	-	(15,000)
Transfers between classes	-	-	(56,191)	-	-	-	-	56,191	-
At 31 August 2025	<u>21,467,000</u>	<u>25,743,000</u>	<u>1,496,215</u>	<u>948,358</u>	<u>617,799</u>	<u>904,497</u>	<u>4,500</u>	<u>2,027,935</u>	<u>53,209,304</u>
Depreciation									
At 1 September 2024	1,908,000	1,405,041	115,870	-	413,294	635,679	4,500	83,486	4,565,870
Charge for the year	326,400	462,518	34,064	-	81,851	107,566	-	40,559	1,052,958
Transfers between classes	-	-	(1,124)	-	-	-	-	1,124	-
At 31 August 2025	<u>2,234,400</u>	<u>1,867,559</u>	<u>148,810</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>495,145</u>	<u>743,245</u>	<u>4,500</u>	<u>125,169</u>	<u>5,618,828</u>
Net book value									
At 31 August 2025	<u>19,232,600</u>	<u>23,875,441</u>	<u>1,347,405</u>	<u>948,358</u>	<u>122,654</u>	<u>161,252</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,902,766</u>	<u>47,590,476</u>
At 31 August 2024	<u>19,559,000</u>	<u>24,337,959</u>	<u>1,413,536</u>	<u>153,146</u>	<u>189,078</u>	<u>224,635</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,671,040</u>	<u>47,548,394</u>

THE CREATIVE LEARNING PARTNERSHIP TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

15. Tangible fixed assets

The Trust leases the land it occupies from Staffordshire County Council on long leases of 125 years. The land associated with this lease has been accounted for on the same basis as the other long term leases in order to properly reflect the substance of the arrangement.

Freehold land of £5,147,000 is included within Freehold land and property and is not depreciated.

16. Debtors

	2025 £	2024 £
Due within one year		
Trade debtors	97,540	43,631
Other debtors	487,504	243,064
Prepayments and accrued income	371,874	291,168
Capital accrued income	1,120,123	1,446,005
	2,077,041	2,023,868

17. Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year

	2025 £	2024 £
Other Loans (Note 19)	13,461	13,461
Trade creditors	601,250	741,059
Other taxation and social security	276,997	198,409
Other creditors	362,122	329,216
Accruals and deferred income	959,827	380,749
	2,213,657	1,662,894

	2025 £	2024 £
Deferred income at 1 September 2024	174,132	378,925
Resources deferred during the year	778,482	174,132
Amounts released from previous periods	(174,132)	(378,925)
	778,482	174,132

At 31 August 2025, the Academy Trust was in receipt of DfE revenue, trip, and club income which relate to the 2025/26 academic year.

THE CREATIVE LEARNING PARTNERSHIP TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

18. Creditors: Amounts falling due after more than one year

	2025	2024
	£	£
Other loans	3,542	17,003

Other loans consist of Salix loans which are unsecured and bear no interest.

THE CREATIVE LEARNING PARTNERSHIP TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

19. Statement of funds

	Balance at 1 September 2024 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/out £	Gains/ (Losses) £	Balance at 31 August 2025 £
Unrestricted funds						
General Funds	1,122,463	1,493,237	(775,743)	(464,276)	-	1,375,681
Restricted general funds						
GAG	-	11,597,511	(11,972,457)	374,946	-	-
Pupil premium	-	769,230	(769,230)	-	-	-
Other DfE grants	-	1,035,800	(1,035,800)	-	-	-
SEN funding	-	1,813,924	(1,813,924)	-	-	-
NEF/Think2 funding	-	1,633,774	(1,633,774)	-	-	-
LA: Other grants	-	288,651	(288,651)	-	-	-
Core schools budget grant	-	416,732	(416,732)	-	-	-
Pension reserve	-	-	455,000	-	(455,000)	-
	-	17,555,622	(17,475,568)	374,946	(455,000)	-
Restricted fixed asset funds						
Fixed assets	47,548,394	-	(1,071,824)	1,124,502	-	47,601,072
Capital grants and donations	1,166,403	833,510	-	(1,035,172)	-	964,741
	48,714,797	833,510	(1,071,824)	89,330	-	48,565,813
Total Restricted funds	48,714,797	18,389,132	(18,547,392)	464,276	(455,000)	48,565,813
Total funds	49,837,260	19,882,369	(19,323,135)	-	(455,000)	49,941,494

THE CREATIVE LEARNING PARTNERSHIP TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

19. Statement of funds (continued)

The specific purposes for which the funds are to be applied are as follows:

Purposes of unrestricted funds

Included in unrestricted funds includes the surplus on conversion from a local authority school, income from outsourcing of staff and other income generated from the other small donations, etc. which carry no specific restrictions. These funds are available for the Academy Trust to use as deemed appropriate.

Purposes of restricted funds

The General Annual Grant represents the grant funding received from the DfE in order to cover the on-going costs of the Academy Trust. Under the funding agreement with the Secretary of State, the Academy Trust was not subject to a limit on the amount of GAG that it could carry forward at 31st August 2025.

Other DfE grants received include amounts to cover pupil premium and universal infant free school meals.

Local Authority grants include early years funding as well as funding to support children with special education needs and additional pupil premium.

Purposes of restricted fixed assets funds

The restricted fixed assets funds reflects resources received by the academy trust to acquire assets for continuing use and furtherance of the trust's aims and objectives. Resources expended reflect the associated depreciation charges as set out on the accounting policies.

Under the funding agreement with the Secretary of State, the Trust was not subject to a limit on the amount of GAG it could carry forward at 31 August 2025.

THE CREATIVE LEARNING PARTNERSHIP TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

19. Statement of funds (continued)

Comparative information in respect of the preceding year is as follows:

	<i>Balance at 1 September 2023 £</i>	<i>Income £</i>	<i>Expenditure £</i>	<i>Transfers in/out £</i>	<i>Gains/ (Losses) £</i>	<i>Balance at 31 August 2024 £</i>
Unrestricted funds						
General Funds	1,110,365	1,392,734	(630,671)	(749,965)	-	1,122,463
Restricted general funds						
GAG	-	9,925,992	(10,575,285)	649,293	-	-
Donations	-	24,526	(24,526)	-	-	-
Pupil premium	-	643,342	(643,342)	-	-	-
Other DfE grants	-	1,027,627	(1,027,627)	-	-	-
SEN funding	-	1,187,699	(1,187,699)	-	-	-
NEF/Think2 funding	-	1,130,917	(1,130,917)	-	-	-
LA: Other grants	-	85,271	(85,271)	-	-	-
Mainstream Additional Support Grant	-	326,621	(326,621)	-	-	-
Pension reserve	-	(275,000)	329,000	-	(54,000)	-
	-	14,076,995	(14,672,288)	649,293	(54,000)	-
Restricted fixed asset funds						
Fixed assets	35,175,025	12,233,383	(787,295)	927,281	-	47,548,394
Capital grants and donations	784,587	1,208,425	-	(826,609)	-	1,166,403
	35,959,612	13,441,808	(787,295)	100,672	-	48,714,797
Total Restricted funds	35,959,612	27,518,803	(15,459,583)	749,965	(54,000)	48,714,797
Total funds	37,069,977	28,911,537	(16,090,254)	-	(54,000)	49,837,260

THE CREATIVE LEARNING PARTNERSHIP TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

19. Statement of funds (continued)

The Trustees operate a policy whereby the Trust's funds are pooled. Therefore, information relating to funds and expenditure by school is not disclosed in these accounts.

20. Analysis of net assets between funds

Analysis of net assets between funds - current year

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Restricted funds 2025 £	Restricted fixed asset funds 2025 £	Total funds 2025 £
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	47,590,476	47,590,476
Intangible fixed assets	-	-	10,596	10,596
Current assets	1,375,681	2,217,199	964,741	4,557,621
Creditors due within one year	-	(2,213,657)	-	(2,213,657)
Creditors due in more than one year	-	(3,542)	-	(3,542)
Total	1,375,681	-	48,565,813	49,941,494

Analysis of net assets between funds - prior year

	<i>Unrestricted funds 2024 £</i>	<i>Restricted funds 2024 £</i>	<i>Restricted fixed asset funds 2024 £</i>	<i>Total funds 2024 £</i>
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	47,548,394	47,548,394
Intangible fixed assets	-	-	14,462	14,462
Current assets	1,122,463	1,679,897	1,151,941	3,954,301
Creditors due within one year	-	(1,662,894)	-	(1,662,894)
Creditors due in more than one year	-	(17,003)	-	(17,003)
Total	1,122,463	-	48,714,797	49,837,260

THE CREATIVE LEARNING PARTNERSHIP TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

21. Reconciliation of net income to net cash flow from operating activities

	2025 £	2024 £
Net income for the year (as per Statement of financial activities)	559,234	12,821,283
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation and amortisation	1,056,824	787,295
Capital grants from DfE and other capital income	(833,510)	(1,208,425)
Interest receivable	(27,672)	(30,783)
Defined benefit pension scheme obligation inherited	-	275,000
Defined benefit pension scheme cost less contributions payable	(394,000)	(307,000)
Defined benefit pension scheme finance (income)/cost	(61,000)	(22,000)
Increase in debtors	(379,055)	(577,407)
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	550,763	(117,970)
Loss on disposal of tangible assets	15,000	-
Transfer on conversion	-	(12,233,383)
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities	486,584	(613,390)

22. Cash flows from financing activities

	2025 £	2024 £
Repayments of borrowing	(13,461)	(13,461)
Net cash used in financing activities	(13,461)	(13,461)

23. Cash flows from investing activities

	2025 £	2024 £
Interest received	27,672	30,783
Purchase of tangible fixed assets	(1,110,040)	(941,744)
Capital grants from DfE Group	1,159,392	1,208,425
Net cash provided by investing activities	77,024	297,464

THE CREATIVE LEARNING PARTNERSHIP TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

24. Analysis of cash and cash equivalents

	2025 £	2024 £
Cash in hand and at bank	2,480,580	1,930,433
Total cash and cash equivalents	2,480,580	1,930,433

25. Analysis of changes in net debt

	At 1 September 2024 £	Cash flows £	At 31 August 2025 £
Cash at bank and in hand	1,930,433	550,147	2,480,580
Debt due within 1 year	(13,461)	-	(13,461)
Debt due after 1 year	(17,003)	13,461	(3,542)
	1,899,969	563,608	2,463,577

26. Pension commitments

The Trust's employees belong to two principal pension schemes: the Teachers' Pension Scheme England and Wales (TPS) for academic and related staff; and the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) for non-teaching staff, which is managed by Staffordshire County Council. Both are multi-employer defined benefit schemes.

The latest actuarial valuation of the TPS related to the period ended 31 March 2020 and of the LGPS 31 March 2022.

Contributions amounting to £323,426 were payable to the schemes at 31 August 2025 (2024 - £282,725) and are included within creditors.

Teachers' Pension Scheme

The Teachers' Pension Scheme (TPS) is a statutory, contributory, defined benefit scheme, governed by the Teachers' Pension Scheme Regulations 2014. Membership is automatic for full-time teachers in academies. All teachers have the option to opt-out of the TPS following enrolment.

The TPS is an unfunded scheme to which both the member and employer makes contributions, as a percentage of salary - these contributions are credited to the Exchequer. Retirement and other pension benefits are paid by public funds provided by Parliament.

THE CREATIVE LEARNING PARTNERSHIP TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

26. Pension commitments (continued)

Valuation of the Teachers' Pension Scheme

The Government Actuary, using normal actuarial principles, conducts a formal actuarial review of the TPS in accordance with the Public Service Pensions (Valuations and Employer Cost Cap) Directions 2014 published by HM Treasury every 4 years. The aim of the review is to ensure scheme costs are recognised and managed appropriately and the review specifies the level of future contributions.

Actuarial scheme valuations are dependent on assumptions about the value of future costs, design of benefits and many other factors. The latest actuarial valuation of the TPS was carried out as at 31 March 2020. The valuation report was published by the Department for Education on 27 October 2023, with the SCAPE rate, set by HMT, applying a notional investment return based on 1.7% above the rate of CPI. The key elements of the valuation outcome are:

- Employer contribution rates set at 28.68% of pensionable pay (including a 0.08% administration levy). This is an increase of 5% in employer contributions and the cost control result is such that no change in member benefits is needed.
- Total scheme liabilities (pensions currently in payment and the estimated cost of future benefits) for service to the effective date of £262,000 million and notional assets (estimated future contributions together with the notional investments held at the valuation date) of £222,200 million, giving a notional past service deficit of £39,800 million.

The result of this valuation will be implemented from 1 April 2024. The next valuation result is due to be implemented from 1 April 2027.

The employer's pension costs paid to TPS in the year amounted to £1,675,407 (2024 - £1,277,269).

A copy of the valuation report and supporting documentation is on the Teachers' Pensions website (<https://www.teacherspensions.co.uk/-/media/documents/member/documents/factors/valuation/tps-ew-2020-valuation-results-report-261023-002.ashx>).

Under the definitions set out in FRS 102, the TPS is an unfunded multi-employer pension scheme. The Trust is unable to identify its share of the underlying assets and liabilities of the plan. Accordingly, the Trust has taken advantage of the exemption in FRS 102 and has accounted for its contributions to the scheme as if it were a defined contribution scheme. The Trust has set out above the information available on the scheme.

THE CREATIVE LEARNING PARTNERSHIP TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

26. Pension commitments (continued)

Local Government Pension Scheme

The LGPS is a funded defined benefit pension scheme, with the assets held in separate trustee-administered funds. The total contribution made for the year ended 31 August 2025 was £1,507,000 (2024 - £1,157,000), of which employer's contributions totalled £1,224,000 (2024 - £944,000) and employees' contributions totalled £283,000 (2024 - £213,000). The agreed contribution rates for future years are 25.2 per cent for employers which will decrease by 1 percent annually following the year end and various rates for employees.

The Academy Trust is aware of the 2023 ruling in the Virgin Media vs NTL Pension Trustee case and subsequent court of appeal ruling published in July 2024. These ruled that certain amendments made to the NTL Pension Plan were invalid because they were not accompanied by the correct actuarial confirmation.

There remains significant uncertainty as to whether the judgements will result in additional liabilities for UK pension schemes and it is possible that the Department of Work & Pensions will introduce legislation to allow changes to be certified retrospectively.

The Trustees have no reason to believe that any changes to the scheme did not have the correct actuarial confirmation but a detailed review has not been carried out. As a result, the Academy Trust has not reflected any potential additional liabilities in its pension disclosures.

Parliament has agreed, at the request of the Secretary of State for Education, to a guarantee that, in the event of school closure, outstanding Local Government Pension Scheme liabilities would be met by the Department for Education. The guarantee came into force on 18 July 2013 and on 21 July 2022, the Department for Education reaffirmed its commitment to the guarantee, with a parliamentary minute published on [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk).

Principal actuarial assumptions

	2025	2024
	%	%
Rate of increase in salaries	3.20	3.15
Rate of increase for pensions	2.70	2.65
Discount rate for scheme liabilities	6.10	5.00
Inflation assumption (CPI)	2.70	2.65

The current mortality assumptions include sufficient allowance for future improvements in mortality rates. The assumed life expectations on retirement age 65 are:

THE CREATIVE LEARNING PARTNERSHIP TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

26. Pension commitments (continued)

	2025 Years	2024 Years
<i>Retiring today</i>		
Males	19.7	19.5
Females	24.1	24.1
<i>Retiring in 20 years</i>		
Males	20.7	20.5
Females	25.1	25.1

Sensitivity analysis on total obligations

	2025 £000	2024 £000
Discount rate +0.1%	8,690	9,758
Discount rate -0.1%	9,122	10,276
Mortality assumption - 1 year increase	9,262	10,418
Mortality assumption - 1 year decrease	8,550	9,916
CPI rate +0.1%	9,121	10,272
CPI rate -0.1%	8,691	9,762

Share of scheme assets

The Trust's share of the assets in the scheme was:

	At 31 August 2025 £	At 31 August 2024 £
Equities	8,026,000	7,061,000
Gilts and bonds	3,816,000	2,979,000
Property	1,053,000	772,000
Cash and other liquid assets	263,000	221,000
Derecognition of pension surplus	(4,252,000)	(1,016,000)
Total market value of assets	8,906,000	10,017,000

The actual return on scheme assets was £776,000 (2024 - £1,147,000).

THE CREATIVE LEARNING PARTNERSHIP TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

26. Pension commitments (continued)

The amounts recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities are as follows:

	2025 £	2024 £
Current service cost	830,000	637,000
Interest income	(585,000)	(467,000)
Interest cost	524,000	445,000
Total amount recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities	769,000	615,000

Changes in the present value of the defined benefit obligations were as follows:

	2025 £	2024 £
At 1 September	10,017,000	8,211,000
Transferred in on existing academies joining the trust	-	772,000
Current service cost	830,000	637,000
Interest cost	524,000	445,000
Employee contributions	283,000	213,000
Actuarial (gains)/losses	(2,590,000)	11,000
Benefits paid	(158,000)	(272,000)
At 31 August	8,906,000	10,017,000

Changes in the fair value of the Trust's share of scheme assets were as follows:

	2025 £	2024 £
At 1 September	10,017,000	8,211,000
Transferred in on existing academies joining the trust	-	497,000
Interest income	585,000	467,000
Actuarial gains	191,000	680,000
Employer contributions	1,224,000	944,000
Employee contributions	283,000	213,000
Benefits paid	(158,000)	(272,000)
Derecognition of surplus	(3,236,000)	(723,000)
At 31 August	8,906,000	10,017,000

THE CREATIVE LEARNING PARTNERSHIP TRUST
(A company limited by guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

27. Operating lease commitments

At 31 August 2025 the Trust had commitments to make future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases as follows:

	2025 £	2024 £
Not later than 1 year	16,685	37,488
Later than 1 year and not later than 5 years	36,084	51,106
	<u>52,769</u>	<u>88,594</u>

28. Members' liability

Each member of the charitable company undertakes to contribute to the assets of the company in the event of it being wound up while he/she is a member, or within one year after he/she ceases to be a member, such amount as may be required, not exceeding £10 for the debts and liabilities contracted before he/she ceases to be a member.

29. Related party transactions

Owing to the nature of the Trust and the composition of the Board of Trustees being drawn from local public and private sector organisations, transactions may take place with organisations in which the trustees have an interest. All transactions involving such organisations are conducted in accordance with the requirements of the Academy Trust Handbook, including notifying the DfE of all transactions made on or after 1 April 2019 and obtaining their approval where required, and with the Trust's financial regulations and normal procurement procedures relating to connected and related party transactions.

The Trust incurred costs of £Nil (2024: £7,950) from Working Together, a company owned by a Trustee of the Multi Academy Trust, as at the balance sheet date amounts were outstanding of £Nil.

Mrs E Compton, wife of Mr S Compton, is employed by the Trust on a salary commensurate with the position held and was employed in line with the Trust's recruitment policy.

Mrs L Stanton, sister of Mr S Compton, is employed by the Trust on a salary commensurate with the position held and was employed in line with the Trust's recruitment policy.

30. Post balance sheet events

On 1 September 2025, the free school, Burleyfields Primary School joined the Trust. As part of the transfer, all assets, liabilities and funds of the school were transferred to the Trust. The Academy Trust incurred costs and received income on behalf of the school ahead of the joining date.